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Details and token, page 13



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master batsman, page 38

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# THE TIMES

No. 65,181

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 1995

Curb on inflation upsets industry

## Clarke raises bank rate as 'stitch in time'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE increased base interest rates for the third time in five months yesterday, drawing unusually strong criticism from employers, business leaders, mortgage lenders and politicians.

The Chancellor said the latest rise of half a percentage point, taking the base rate to 6.75 per cent, was a "stitch in time" to safeguard the economic recovery. He and John Major defended the move as necessary to keep up the fight against inflation and to protect homeowners.

Building societies are unlikely to increase mortgage rates immediately, having just adjusted their rates to take account of the last base-rate rise on December 7.

Although the increase was welcomed in the City, others attacked it fiercely. Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "In our view domestic conditions did not require a further rise in rates."

The British Chambers of Commerce said: "We are seriously disappointed in this rise. Companies are struggling as it is to keep themselves in business, particularly small ones."

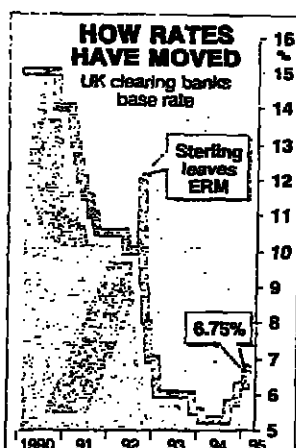
The Bradford & Bingley building society said that the rise was an unwelcome blow to a housing market struggling to recover and would do nothing to improve the lack of confidence being shown by potential homebuyers.

In a Commons clash with Mr Major, Tony Blair claimed that typical homeowners would be paying an extra £800 a year because of the recent mortgage rate rise, the cut in mortgage tax relief and the new tax on home insurance.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Mr Major of having betrayed homeowners and branded the rise a "double blow to living standards, making an already insecure Britain even more insecure."

"Every time we expand, even out of recession, we cannot sustain that growth, reflecting the underlying economic weakness you refuse to address," he said.

Mr Major said he appreciated the effect that interest rate rises had on home owners, but insisted: "What would be most damaging for them would be for inflation to take off in the way that it has done in the



past." Mr Clarke said he had ordered the interest rate rise "in order to deliver my stated objective of sustained growth with low inflation". He said: "At the moment we still have a very buoyant economy," but there had been an increase in commodity prices and producer prices had been rising a little. "I judged it timely to make a further increase to make sure that growth should be sustained without a recurrence of inflation."

The decision to increase the rate for the third time since September came at a breakfast meeting between the Chancellor and Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England. Mr Clarke's strategy of a gradual squeeze is designed to leave him room for tax cuts in the next two Budgets.

In a message to mortgage holders, Mr Clarke said: "I want no more boom and bust. I want steady recovery with things getting better all the time. In the past the housing market and people with mortgages have been most damaged when we've lost control and eventually had to go up to 15-16 per cent interest."

Mortgage lenders were yesterday among the hardest critics of the rate rise, which came on the day after the Nationwide Building Society reported a fall in house prices in January to a level about 0.5 per cent lower than a year ago.

Initial responses from building societies suggested that the latest increase in base rates will not be passed on to mortgage borrowers, at least for the time being. The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest mortgage lender, said

that it saw no immediate need to raise rates but expressed disappointment with yesterday's news.

The Halifax recently led other societies in a round of mortgage rate increases in a delayed reaction to the last base-rate rise. Other societies also said that they would not be raising mortgage rates immediately.

If rates do rise, however, it is likely to be by a quarter of a percentage point, adding about £6 to an average £50,000 mortgage.

The Chancellor said that the British recovery was healthy, well-balanced and founded on a remarkable improvement in competitiveness across British industry, and that keeping inflation low was a vital element in this.

He said: "I judged that, on the balance of risks, a further increase in interest rates now will help to keep inflation under control. That is the best way to ensure healthy economic growth, leading to a continuing rise in secure jobs and higher living standards."

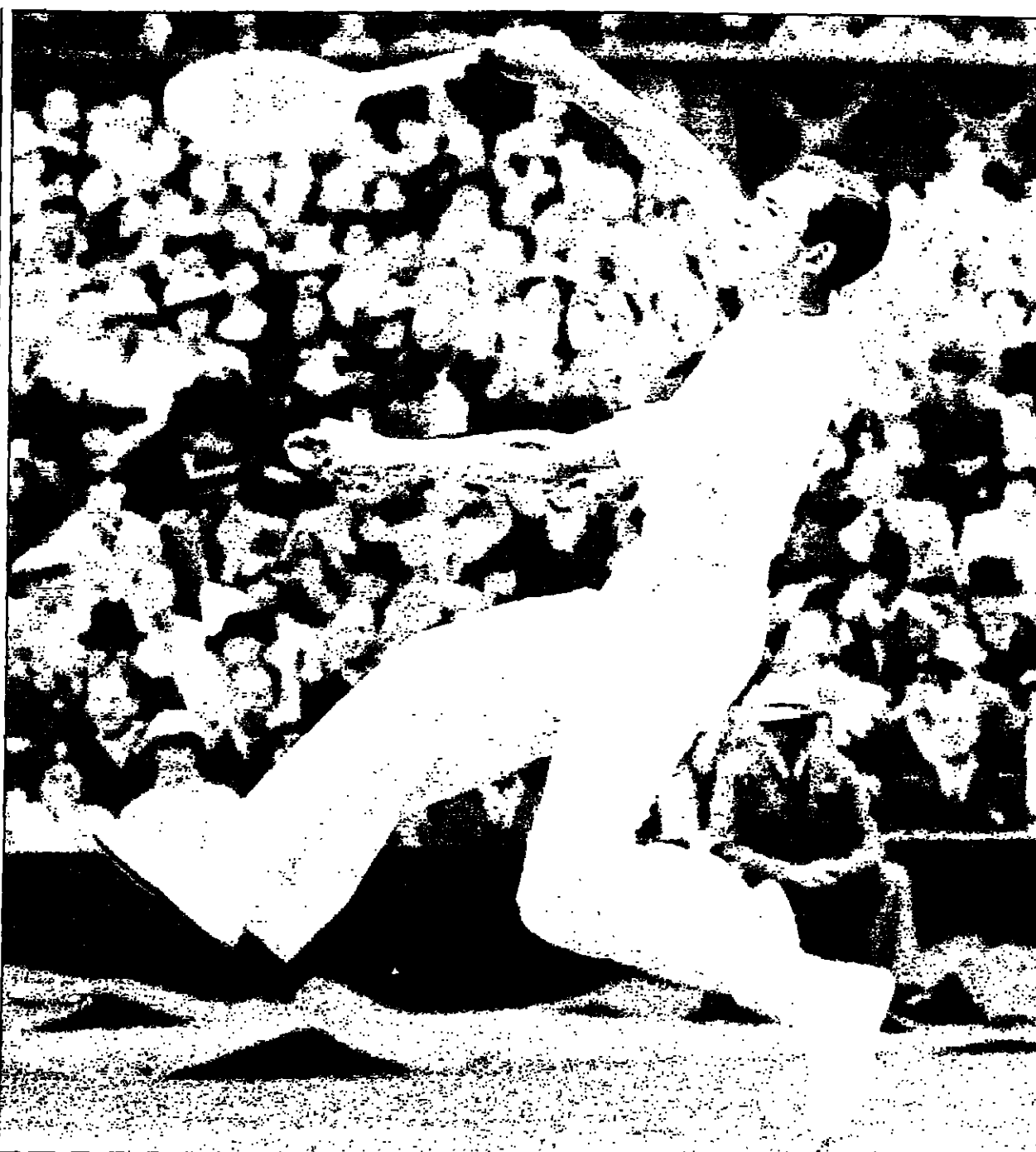
Mr Clarke's action received approval from the Institute of Directors which said that the move represented "short-term pain for long-term gain".

Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said: "Increasing interest rates every six weeks does not constitute an economic strategy." He said that the Government should take steps to encourage industrial investment, without which a healthy recovery could not be sustained.

Economists almost unanimously approved of yesterday's move, which continued a pattern in which the authorities have acted early to preempt a build-up of inflationary pressures.

The stock market took the news in its stride, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 17.4 points higher at 3,034.7. Government bonds, which normally react badly to higher interest rates, closed slightly higher amid satisfaction that the authorities had emphasised their commitment to keeping inflation under control.

Peter Riddell, page 10  
Leading article, page 17  
Business News, page 21



Fred Perry on the Centre Court during his 40-minute finals victory over Baron Gottfried von Cramm in 1936

## Wimbledon hero Perry dies at 85

By JOHN GOODBODY  
SPORTS NEWS  
CORRESPONDENT

FRED PERRY, the last British man to win a Wimbledon singles title, died yesterday in a hospital in Melbourne. He was 85 and had been attending the recent Australian Open Championships.

Perry, whose resolve and skill brought him three successive Wimbledon titles between 1934 and 1936, had broken four ribs in a fall this week and his condition deteriorated quickly in hospital.

Through his domination of the game, Perry became an icon for the public, although he was shunned by the tennis establishment in his heyday. He later became a figure revered by everyone in international sport, commenting for the BBC, promoting his own sportswear and writing newspaper articles. Tributes poured in yesterday from the tennis world for his prowess as a player, his sportsmanship and his charming personality.

Perry had been virtually ostracised by the tennis establishment when he turned professional in 1936 shortly after completing the third of his Centre Court singles triumphs. However the All-England Club finally recognised his eminence and in 1984 erected a bronze statue of him at the entrance to Wimbledon.

Perry adored the sport's most famous arena. He said: "I have been in love with the

place since the first day I saw it. For me there isn't anything else."

The zenith of his career came in 1936, when he completed his hat-trick of victories at the annual championships. He defeated Baron Gottfried Von Cramm of Germany 6-1, 6-0 in a 40-minute final, the shortest this century and the second briefest in Wimbledon history.

Perry, from Stockport and the son of a Labour MP, was said to have been born with a wooden spoon in his mouth. But this gave him the determination to overcome all the opposition he faced from a sport that was predominantly middle-class.

He first became supreme at table tennis, winning the world title in 1929, but a schoolboy fascination for the outdoor game flourished in the 1930s.

Perry was dominant all over the world, winning three US titles, the French championship in 1935 and the Australia



Perry in 1990: revered in international sport

lian in 1934. After turning professional, he played a series of exhibition matches in the United States, became an American citizen in 1939, and was a staff sergeant in the US Army during the Second World War.

Obituary, page 19  
Tributes, page 40

Blair's call, page 2  
Raising the stakes, page 16  
Letters, page 17

### Pleasence dies

Donald Pleasence, ranked among Britain's finest character actors, died yesterday at his home in the south of France. He was 75. Page 7  
Obituary, page 19

## Inland Revenue to cut 12,000 jobs

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Inland Revenue, one of the state's largest employers after the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Social Security, is to shed more than 12,000 jobs over the next seven years.

More than half the job cuts will take place in the next three years. The Revenue's 54,000 staff were told of the move at a series of meetings yesterday.

The Inland Revenue Staff Federation said that the job cuts would result in a poorer service to taxpayers and could lead to the amount of uncollected taxes rising above £2 billion. Clive Brooke, general secretary of the federation, said he was concerned that the collection of unpaid taxes could be passed to the private sector.

At a meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on Tuesday evening, the federation failed to secure a guarantee that there would be no compulsory redundancies. More than 10,000 Revenue jobs have been shed over the

past three years of which less than 30 were compulsory redundancies.

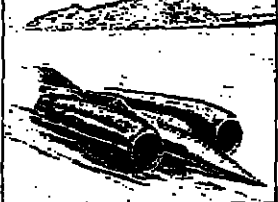
Mr Brooke said that the latest round of job cuts would fall on the middle management level, including tax collectors and members of the Valuation Office, which sets the band rates for the Council Tax. He added that only 90 of the first swathe of job cuts would come from the most senior level. About 100 out of 650 tax offices around the country are expected to close.

The federation is to ballot its members later this month on the job cuts programme set out in a document negotiated between the union and the Revenue. If members reject that agreement, industrial action could follow.

The Revenue said that fewer staff would be needed in the future because of more effective technology and the introduction of the self-assessment tax system for up to nine million taxpayers who receive tax returns in 1996/97.

### THE TIMES

30p  
ON SATURDAY



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MONEY

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VISION

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radio guide

## Veal protesters raid airline chief's home

By EMMA WILKINS

ANIMAL rights activists attacked the home of the man responsible for flying calves to the Continent yesterday in protest at the death of the woman campaigner under the wheels of a lorry.

More than 40 demonstrators threw bricks and stones, breaking all the ground floor windows at the home of Christopher Barrett-Jolley, managing director of Phoenix Aviation, in Frankton, near Rugby. Jill Phipps, 31, fell beneath the wheels of a lorry delivering veal calves to Coventry airport for transport to Europe on a Phoenix flight.

Mr Barrett-Jolley's wife Maria, 45, was at home when 36 panes of glass in the windows of the £250,000 Georgian house were shattered. A police officer who attempted to arrest a protester was knocked to the ground.

The activists, believed to be members of the Animal Liberation Front, were dressed in black balaclavas and hooded anoraks as they broke through

a perimeter fence in the two-acre grounds. Two press photographers were forced to hand over film as the activists shouted: "Jolley, come out and answer our questions. You're not so jolly now."

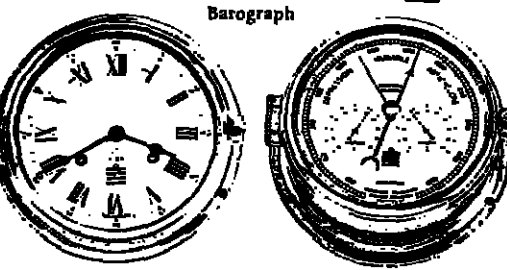
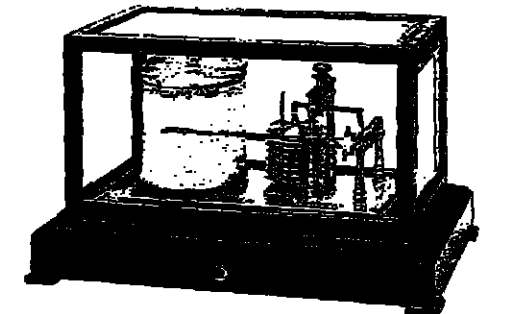
The activists dispersed when three vans containing riot police officers and a squad of patrol cars arrived. Superintendent David Whitehouse, of Warwickshire police, said the protesters were intent on causing malicious damage.

John Bradshaw, a spokesman for Phoenix Aviation, who was working in an upstairs office at the house, said: "Fanatic is too honourable a word for them. You can't speak to these people — they are yobs and hooligans — but we won't be intimidated."

A group of 40 protesters held a silent vigil for Ms Phipps last night outside the gates of Coventry airport, which was decorated with flowers.

Militant history, page 3

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# Ghoulish Unionists betray their fears



Parris: in battleship grey for the occasion

Rather like Banquo's ghost, your Ulster Unionist MP now moves into his favourite role: the resident spectre of the Commons. He sees himself as the betrayer: come amongst us to strike, rattle his chains, and generally float around in a phantasmagorical manner.

He visits the Chamber to remind governments of nemesis and judgment: to howl, rattle his chains, and display his wounds — a living victim sent to represent living victims, visible symbol of the treachery of England, confronting us with our perfidy, and threatening nameless retributions.

The one thing the Unionist MPs never do is cheer up or join in. Nobody has ever heard an Ulster Unionist say anything in the Chamber which raised the spirits or



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

lifted the heart. It is times like these when we sense a weird paradox: that your Unionist fears and distrusts England, with which he protests himself to be seeking a deeper Union, more than he hates the rest of Ireland, towards which he displays a ritual but knock-about hostility.

So do not imagine that the Ulster Unionists are upset. They love times like this, times which confirm their myths and offer them their cue.

Yesterday, John D Taylor (UUP, Strangford), a heavy, powerful, iron-haired man, left his chains behind but sat in on Treasury Questions to

grind his teeth audibly in public and say "Boo" to the Conservative Party.

Is it wise, he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "to continue to raise interest rates in advance of a general election?" A little, nervous giggle ran across the Government benches. Luckily for the Tories, Kenneth Clarke does not believe in ghosts and took no notice of the imprecation.

Some way behind the Chancellor sat Ann Winterton (C, Congleton), next to Ian Paisley, who had chosen a massive suit in battleship grey for the occasion. The Wintertons do talk to ghouls, and Mrs Winterton was talk-

ing to Mr Paisley, who was whispering something to her. Other Tories pretended he wasn't there. Nobody really knows why Paisley and his flesh-creeching sidekick, the Rev William McCrea (DUP, Mid Ulster), a gospel singer known in the Province as the Singing Nun, sit among the Tories. They certainly do not support them. Your sketch-writer's view is that it is to put the wind up them.

Despite this and Wednesday's Ulster Shock, the Government benches seemed to have recovered some of their nerve by Prime Minister's Questions.

Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) has temporarily accepted that the Unionists are more frightening to the Cabinet at present than even she can hope to be, so yesterday she tried a new role: that

of bringing a little gaiety to Mr Major's life. Was he aware, she asked, that the Treasury was to sell off half its premises in Whitehall to the private sector? Could he reassure her — suspicious creature that she was — that this did not preclude the abolition of the pound sterling, in favour of a common European currency?

This did seem to lift Mr Major's spirits. He slapped his hand down on the dispatch box in a manner suggesting "Well damn me! That's one question I didn't bargain for!" and gave the Billericay cheerleader the reassurance she sought. Everyone laughed. Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown offered the PM their support on Ireland.

I peered down, looking for the Unionists. But, like Banquo's ghost, they had faded.

'I cannot understand why mainstream Unionists reacted so strongly'

## Fringe loyalists attack 'kneejerk' reaction to leak

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALIST leaders who brokered the ceasefire by Protestant paramilitaries yesterday criticised the "hyped-up" reaction of mainstream Unionists to disclosures about the Anglo-Irish framework document.

Members of the two fringe loyalist parties with links to the paramilitaries rejected claims by the Ulster Unionist and the Democratic Unionist parties that the document was dead, and they called for it to be published. John White, of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has ties to the outlawed Ulster Defence Association, criticised "kneejerk" reactions and said he would give his response to the document once it has been published.

Mr White said: "We have been assured in a private capacity that what is contained in the framework document are only proposals. I have no reason to believe that John Major and other people of integrity should tell us lies."

He said he found it difficult to understand why the mainstream Unionists had reacted so strongly. "It is creating the wrong impression in the loyalist community and intens-

ifying fears. They don't seem to be trying to give the peace process a chance."

David Ervine, of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links to the Ulster Volunteer Force, said that although elements of the document were unacceptable it was important to publish it. "We may never resolve the intractable differences in Northern Ireland. But I think we can transform the circumstances in which the argument takes place," Mr Ervine condemned the "grandiose" plans for cross-border bodies. "We have no difficulty with genuine cross-border co-operation but we fear dynamic structures which will take on a life of their own."

A former Northern Ireland government minister who pioneered cross-border co-operation with the Republic and who says he is a moderate Unionist said yesterday that the Anglo-Irish plans would "end in tears". The former Stormont MP, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the two governments would inflame Unionists if they pressed ahead with their pro-

posals. If they got "cold feet" then the IRA would return to violence.

Archbishop Robin Eames, Church of Ireland Primate, voiced fears about the peace process, saying: "We have got to remember the victims of the last 25 years." He said the price of failure would be to return to violence.

A suggestion that 30-year jail sentences on two IRA bombers could be reduced in the light of the Northern Ireland ceasefire was rejected by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Jan Taylor, a former soldier, of Stepping, east London, and Patrick Hayes, a computer programmer, of Stoke Newington, north London, were convicted of an explosion at Harrods in January 1993 and on a Victoria to Ramsgate train next month.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, said: "Terrorism is terrorism by whatever organisation it is carried out."

Irish leak, page 1  
Conor Cruise O'Brien, Diary, page 16  
Letters, page 17



David Ervine: "We fear dynamic structures which will take on a life of their own"

## Blair call to trust Major on Ulster

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR last night called on the people to trust John Major over the Northern Ireland peace initiative as the Cabinet and Tory MPs rallied behind the Prime Minister.

In the wake of the disclosure of parts of the draft framework document on Northern Ireland, Michael Portillo sought to prevent anxieties among Unionist-sympathising Tory MPs spreading to the Eurosceptics. Mr Portillo, the Employment Secretary, told BBC1 news that the Prime Minister had "given very firm guarantees on Northern Ireland and on the European question. He is deeply concerned about the Union and about the United Kingdom, and people should put their trust firmly in him."

Mr Major urged MPs to study the document in its entirety when it was published: nothing would be imposed. The process required the agreement of all parties, and of Northern Ireland's people.

In Mr Blair's broadcast last night responding to Mr Major's previous evening, the Labour leader said: "There are some areas that should rise above party politics. Seeking to bring peace to Northern Ireland is one of them."

## Hints and leaks punctuate year of cross-border plans

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A STEADY trickle of comments by government ministers and leaks in London and Dublin have punctuated the preparation of one of the most crucial documents in Anglo-Irish politics this century. *Financial Times*, February 3, 1994: plans for document include devolved government, cross-border co-operation, including new executive boards. *Financial Times*, September 1, 1994: dilution of Republic's constitutional claim to the

North, changes in Government of Ireland Act 1920 and new cross-border institutions. *Financial Times*, September 6, 1994: Sir Patrick Mayhew talks of dispute over whether cross-border structures should have executive powers. Suggests could be dealt with by Dublin Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly delegating powers to joint bodies. *The Independent*, September 22, 1994: Sir Patrick talks of examining ways in which, without impinging on sovereignty, a North-South body would enable common cause

in areas of common interest. *The Sunday Telegraph*, January 15, 1995: 90 per cent of document complete but two governments in dispute over Republic's constitutional claim to the North and over scope and powers of new cross-border bodies. Dublin wants them to have executive powers. UK more cautious. *The Sunday Times*, January 22: differences over framework document resolved, with common ground on cross-border bodies with executive powers and changes to constitutional claim to North. No

all-Ireland bodies but cross-border boards to promote transport and economy. *Financial Times*, January 26: Unionists to be given veto over scope of executive powers on all-Ireland bodies. Will not operate executive powers without agreement of Northern Ireland Assembly. Joint committee of Anglo-Irish conference to act as arbiter on complaints over decision of new assembly. Executive powers might operate in a way similar to EU Council of Ministers, where decisions do not have to be ratified by

individual parliaments. Cross-border institution should have a role in helping develop joint approach to EU. *Sunday Press*, Dublin, January 29: front-page exclusive on new body to co-ordinate activities of ministers in Dublin and Belfast on agriculture, environment, tourism and transport. Consultative, harmonising and executive powers. Changes to modify the Irish Republic's constitutional claim and the Government of Ireland Acts. *The Independent*, January 30: cross-border authority on ar-

reas such as agriculture, tourism and transport would have power to initiate policy and to harmonise Anglo-Irish regulations with EU. *The Times*, February 1: joint North-South authority with executive powers including dealing with Brussels, planned harmonisation of agriculture, trade, education and health policies. Constitutional change to Government of Ireland Act 1920 and Irish Government to propose change to Articles 2 and 3 of Irish Constitution claiming jurisdiction over North.

## Margarine heart risk 'not as high as butter'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CLAIMS that margarine is as dangerous as butter may have been based on faulty data, two new studies suggest. New evidence suggests that the kinds of fat found in margarine do not increase the risk of heart attacks.

The studies, published in *The Lancet*, measured the amounts of trans fatty acids found in people who had had heart attacks. These are the fats found in margarine created by a process that hardens oils to create spreads.

Neither study found that the levels of the trans fatty acids were higher in heart attack

victims than in healthy people. This flies in the face of claims made last year by Professor Walter Willett of Harvard Medical School that people were "grossly misled" if they thought margarine was better for them than butter.

Dr Willett's claims were based on an eight-year survey which suggested that those who ate more margarine had a higher risk of heart disease.

The new measurements of the amount of trans fatty acids in body tissue are more accurate because they measure actual intake, rather than estimates based on diets.

## School bans mobile phones in class

By BEN PRESTON AND MARIANNE DARCH

A COMPREHENSIVE school has banned children from taking mobile telephones into class. Southgate School in Enfield, north London, has clamped down because teachers are fed up with chirruping phones disrupting lessons.

Peter Hudson, the head teacher, ordered the ban after several pupils were given mobile phones for Christmas in the wake of a prize war that slashed the cost of phones to as little as £9. He said: "I decided enough was enough when 20 15-year-old boys starting ringing each other from different classrooms. That's the world we live in now."

Mr Hudson wrote to parents explaining that pupils would be allowed to take mobile phones into school but would have them confiscated if they were used in class. "If they bring them in, I don't want to know about it. But if they are caught

using them in lessons, they will be taken away. They stretch my patience."

Matthew Johnston, 15, said about 10 of the 300 pupils in his year had mobiles. He bought his on a special offer with earnings from a job at a local restaurant. "I use it to be on call for work at the restaurant," he said. "I got it because I'm always out and I didn't want to miss calls from friends."

Matthew said mobile phones were sought after by teenagers but not everyone could afford one. "My maths teacher got really angry and confiscated it when it went off in class. Everyone in the class thought it was really funny. I did it on purpose once in history and the teacher did not get too upset. The maths teacher is a bit older though."

Mr Hudson said pupils who owned mobile phones were "normal suburban kids". Some parents bought them for

peace of mind because they were worried about their children's whereabouts.

Mr Hudson, himself a convert to portables, was adamant he was not just a reactionary schoolmaster banning anything new. "I think we'll see many more mobile phones in school. There are situations where they are useful but not in class. They will be like calculators and every child will have one."

There are more than 50 mobile phones on the market, ranging in price from £9 to over £300. A range of tariffs covers connection fees, monthly subscriptions, insurance and call charges. An infrequent user can enjoy cheap line rental but pay almost 50p a minute peak time. Frequent users pay about £20 rental but their calls are 14p-25p a minute.

Photograph, page 20

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fowler calls for ban on MP lobbyists

Sir Norman Fowler, former chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday called for a ban on MPs taking paid work with parliamentary lobbyists. Sir Norman told the Nolan committee on standards in public life that it was difficult to see how the role of an MP was compatible with paid lobbying. "Lobbyists take up the cases which they are employed to pursue. They do not have to be politically consistent," he said.

Sir Norman also called for an independent committee to look at posts taken up by former ministers within two years of leaving office. "Such a check would not apply if the ex-minister was going to a job which self-evidently had nothing to do with his last department," he said.

### Cantona file sent to CPS

Police files relating to incidents involving the Manchester United footballers Eric Cantona and Paul Ince have been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service. Cantona, who kicked a fan at Selhurst Park, has been suspended and fined by his club. The Football Association has charged him with bringing the game into disrepute.

### Council tax warning

Council tax bills will rise by up to 20 per cent in some areas and services will be cut everywhere because of the 0.4 per cent reduction in government funding next year, the Association of County Councils said yesterday. Some councils, led by Shropshire, say they plan to challenge the Government by setting budgets in excess of the limits.

### Runways ruled out

The Transport Secretary has ruled out building further main runways at either Heathrow or Gatwick airports. In a written parliamentary answer, Dr Brian Mahoney announced a further study into ways of making better use of the existing facilities at Heathrow and the possible use of new shorter runways within the Gatwick boundaries.

### Lorry safety campaign

MPs joined forces with the road haulage industry and relatives of people killed by lorries to demand tougher controls on "cowboy" operators of heavy goods vehicles. The Campaign for Safer Lorries wants heavy fines for drivers of dangerous lorries, six-month safety checks, and a new charge of corporate manslaughter for HGV operators.

### Breast surgery blunder

A woman is demanding an inquiry into how an operation to remove a lump from her breast missed it completely. The benign lump was removed in a second operation a few weeks later. Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, reprimanded the surgeon and offered £5,000 compensation to Alison Jones, 31, but will not order an external inquiry.

### Car crashes into queue

A two-year-old girl was critically ill in intensive care after a car crashed into a bus queue of mothers and children in Leeds. The girl's mother, another girl aged four and her mother, as well as the driver and passenger of the Ford Sierra involved in the incident were also taken to hospital. They were not seriously injured.

### Arson husband is jailed

A man who set fire to his wife was jailed for ten years yesterday. Leslie Beattie, right, doused Michelle Beattie, 31, in petrol and set her alight after she told him she was leaving him for another man. Durham Crown Court cleared Beattie, 35, of attempted murder but convicted him of arson with intent to endanger the lives of Mrs Beattie and PC George Hall, who tried to prevent the fire.



### Teeth 'radioactive'

HIGHER than normal levels of radioactivity have been detected in the teeth of children living near motorways. Scientists at Bristol University believe the findings pinpoint another risk linked to petrol and exhaust fumes. "In our view it (radiation) should be added to the list of potential carcinogens from vehicles," Dr Denis Heathshaw said.

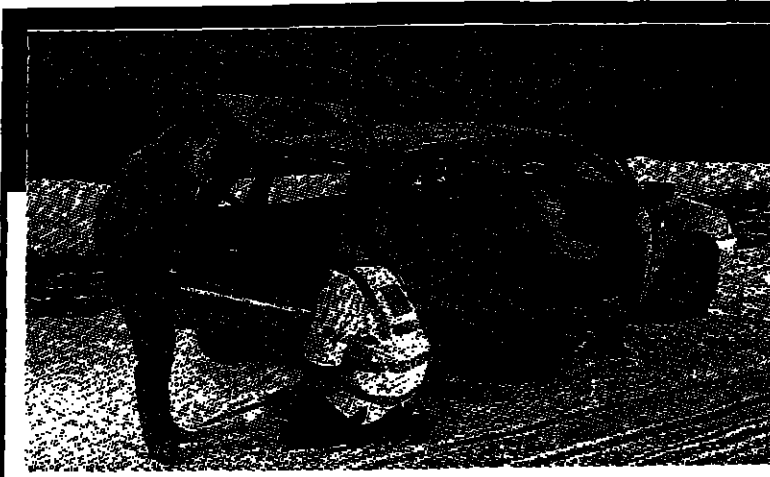
### Prince raises a cheer



The Prince of Wales, left, not known for his beer drinking, won praise for his bartending skills during a visit to mark the 150th anniversary of Fuller's Brewery in Chiswick, west London. The Prince, whose favourite tipple is Martini, pulled a pint of London Pride and pronounced it "very strong". He then helped to create a celebratory bitter by pouring hops into a brewing vessel.

### Pop show changes tune

BBC's *Top of the Pops* was screened last night with a new theme tune, logo and graphics in an attempt to give it a more modern image. Ric Blaxill, its producer, said the changes were needed because the programme had lost its mainstream showbusiness appeal. A *Top of the Pops* magazine will be launched on February 22.



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'Jill would almost be happy to sacrifice her life to halt export of calves from Coventry'

## Veal lorry victim had record of militant protest

By Emma Wilkins

THE animal rights protester killed during a demonstration against the export of veal calves at Coventry airport was a committed activist with a history of militant protest. Jill Phipps, who fell under the wheels of a delivery lorry on Wednesday, had dedicated her life to the cause of animal rights, her boyfriend Justin Timson said.

"I am heartbroken to have lost her, but she would be happy to know this will just make people more determined to end the abuse of animals in this country," he said.

As Mr Timson, 26, told of their shared passion for animals, it emerged that Ms Phipps, 31, had been given a two-year suspended prison sentence in 1986 for her part in a raid on a Unilever factory in 1984. The former post office clerk from Coventry took part in the animal rights raid with her mother, Nancy, and sister, Lesley. The three women and 25 other protesters, who caused £14,000 of damage to the headquarters of the food and soap powder conglomerate in Bedford, were described as "the enemies of society" by Judge Wild at Leicester Crown Court.

Mrs Phipps, 68, who was protesting with her daughter when she died, received a six-month jail sentence. Lesley Phipps, 28, was sentenced to six months' youth custody. The three women were convicted of conspiracy to burgle. As the Police Complaints Authority began an inquiry into Wednesday's accident, Warwickshire Police said the lorry driver had been traumatised by Ms Phipps's death. "He is very distressed by this tragic incident," a police spokeswoman said. "We understand he had slowed down as much as he could when the accident happened." She added that the driver was not being identified for his own safety.

Commercial veal exports from Coventry airport re-

sumed earlier this week on Phoenix Aviation flights, a month after one of the airline's flights crashed, killing five people.

Ms Phipps, who was taken by her mother to her first animal rights demonstration at a fur farm at the age of 11, was among those who blamed Christopher Barrett-Jolley, director of Phoenix Aviation, for the crash. She was quoted in a local newspaper as saying: "This whole disaster is down to Barrett-Jolley's greed. If he had not been exporting five

Phipps five years ago when they worked on a hop farm in Kent, broke the news of her death to Luke. "He is a really good kid, a real credit to Jill," he said. "She went through a lot of hard times bringing him up. Now he has to go through the rest of his life without a mum. I am going to bring him up now. It is the least I can do."

Mr Timson said Ms Phipps would be happy that exports of veal calves from Coventry had now stopped. "She would almost be willing to sacrifice her life just for that. That's how caring and unselfish she was."

Mr Timson, who was born in Melbourne, Australia, and runs his own business making didgeridoos, broke down in tears as he spoke of his girlfriend's dedication to her lifelong cause.

"A lot of people say they should not take the law into their own hands and smash things up. But throughout history it has taken violent protest to change things."

Ms Phipps, who had lived on benefit since the birth of Luke, shared her council home with Mr Timson, the couple's two dogs, Spider and Lucy, and two pet rats, called Krishna and Buddha. After her marriage to Luke's father, Alan Cockrell, broke up, she lived in a series of squats while her mother and father, Robert, a retired postman, lived on a canal boat.

Mrs Phipps said yesterday: "I am totally heartbroken. I still cannot believe my daughter is dead. She was such a bright girl. She never gave me a minute's unhappiness and she did not deserve to die."

Mr Phipps, 70, said he was devastated by his daughter's death. "Jill couldn't stand injustices and devoted her life to that cause. It was something about cruelty to animals that really touched a nerve with Jill. She felt very deeply about it."

Ms Phipps, who left Lyng



Jill Phipps with her son Luke, aged nine; Nancy Phipps, who took her daughter to her first demonstration at the age of 11 and was protesting with her when she died; and tributes outside Coventry airport yesterday

Hall school in Coventry at the age of 16, had a promising school career and could have gone on to university, the school's headmistress Jane McGinn said. Her school records show that she was well above average and excelled at English and art. She gained impressive school results and could easily have

gone on to the sixth form or beyond. "Jill was never going to end up doing something ordinary. She wanted to change the world for the better. While she was at school, she displayed none of the anarchistic streak that must have later developed," Ms McGinn said. The manager of a Channel port engaged in the livestock

trade announced his resignation yesterday and accused the port's board of capitulating to animal rights activists. Philip Lacey, general manager of the Shoreham Port Authority in West Sussex, the scene of almost nightly clashes between police and protesters, said his decision had been prompted by an order from

local district council prohibiting further animal shipments from midnight on Saturday. "My view is we have a good legal defence against the order, but the clear majority view of my board is the livestock trade should end. This brought matters to a head."

Raid on home, page 1

## Husband shot dead 'in act of family revenge'

By a Staff Reporter

MEMBERS of a Sicilian family plotted "murder, betrayal and violence" to kill a restaurant owner, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Domenico Ranno was shot dead in his home in Brixton, south London, with his own silenced gun by his brother-in-law, while another relative drove the getaway car. Julian Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, alleged that Mr Ranno's wife, Sebastiana, solicited the murder.

While on holiday in Sicily in 1993 she planned the killing with her brother Domenico Finocchio. She regarded her husband as unbearable and described him as an animal. The couple, both from Sicily, had come to Britain in the 1980s. They had two restaurants in south London.

Mr Bevan said Mr Ranno was heavily involved in drug-dealing. By 1993, Mrs Ranno wanted a divorce because of her husband's violence and threats to her and their son. But if he was dead she stood to gain "rich pickings" including £35,000 in jewellery and cash, Mr Bevan said.

He also claimed she recruited another brother, Sebastiano, to threaten and even murder witnesses. Mr Bevan said that Mrs Ranno was "a very strong-willed and manipulative woman". Her brother Domenico was a proud and boastful man who plotted revenge on his brother-in-law for what he had done to his sister and for making him share a flat with waiters from the restaurant, which he found demeaning. He told friends he had come to Britain to kill Mr Ranno and expected to get his car, cash and gold afterwards. Mr Bevan said the other brother Sebastiano was recruited by Mrs Ranno to silence witnesses.

Mrs Ranno, 34, and Domenico Finocchio, 46, deny murdering her husband in November 1993, and they and Sebastiano, 37, deny conspiracy to murder a witness in the case. The two men deny conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, a charge Mrs Ranno has admitted. The trial was adjourned until Monday.

## Alarm-smashing fine cancelled

By a Staff Reporter

A MAN failed yesterday to overturn his conviction for smashing a burglar alarm that had been emitting a high-pitched whine for 90 minutes.

However, a court cancelled a £100 fine Ashley Banks received from magistrates last November and replaced it with a year's conditional discharge after accepting that he was "provoked beyond endurance".

The burglar alarm sounded at an empty office opposite Mr Banks's home in Chelsea on a Sunday afternoon last September. Southwark Crown Court in London was told. Nigel Ley, for the defence, said his client had acted reasonably, using minimum force to abate a nuisance.

Mr Banks, who had denied criminal damage, said he had long suffered from the nuisance of burglar alarms sounding at all hours and said nothing was done when he complained to police. When

asked if he thought he had committed a criminal offence he said: "I think just the reverse. I think I was stopping an offence."

Mr Banks, 48, an unemployed former company director, said he had taken a hammer to the alarm. "That did not end it so I got a screwdriver and gave it a yank and it fell off still hanging by its wires."

The recorder, Anthony Wilcken, said a £95 compensation order for the alarm would remain but court costs would be halved to £150.

Outside the court Mr Banks said: "It's the same old story, somebody who sticks their neck out and tries to do some good for their neighbours ends up in court."

He said he was pleased the fine was cancelled but added: "Frankly, the law needs changing to make it illegal for alarms like this to go off for more than 20 minutes."

## Mother's terror as aircraft hit car

By a Staff Reporter

A FARMER'S wife described yesterday her terror when an aircraft landed on top of her car as she was delivering groceries to her mother-in-law. "I just felt an almighty bang and the car started coming in around us," Nancy Morrison, 41, told Aberdeen Sheriff Court.

Her two youngest children were in her Mercedes when the accident happened last April. Robin Laidlaw, 66, the pilot of the Cessna light aircraft that struck the car, denies endangering the safety of Mrs Morrison and her children. Kerry, 13, and Duncan, 11. Mr Laidlaw, of South Queensferry, Lothian, also denies putting in danger the lives of two other children and an adult who were with him in the plane at the time.

Mrs Morrison, of Keig, Grampian, said: "I thought at first that something had come in the back window and hit me on the neck. The back and

front windows were shattered and the back window came in and showered us with glass. It was not until I saw the aircraft emerge from the right that I realised the car had been hit."

Mr Laidlaw is alleged to have acted recklessly and negligently while at the controls by failing to adopt a proper landing profile and causing the aircraft to strike the car and a roadside fence.

David Squires, of Dufftown, Grampian, a former RAF officer and one of the passengers in the plane, told the hearing that the descent towards the airstrip at Insh, Grampian, had appeared normal. As they approached the perimeter of the runway he suddenly saw the car approaching when the plane was about 15 to 20ft from the ground. "I was astonished that it had suddenly appeared so close to the end of the runway," he said.

The hearing continues.

## Ageist yoghurt firm drops Lumley

By Robin Young

A GERMAN yoghurt company has told Joanna Lumley, the star of television's *Absolutely Fabulous*, that she is too old for its commercials. Miss Lumley, who in the BBC comedy plays an ageing and debauched hanger-on in the fashion world, will be replaced by a woman half her age.

Over the past three years Miss Lumley, who is 48, helped to sell Müller yoghurt on television with the slogan: "To appreciate fully what is pure, one must also have tasted what is wicked." She has been replaced by the model Naomi Campbell, who is 24.

Miss Lumley was a Sixties model who later starred in the top-rating television series *The New Avengers*. A Müller spokeswoman, Siobhan Abernethy, said yesterday: "Joanna is getting a bit old. She had a wonderful sophistication, working wonders for the brand, but we



Campbell, left, "a face for the Nineties"; Lumley's agent says she left after being unable to agree terms

were looking for someone newer and younger and a face for the Nineties."

Miss Lumley's representative, Kate Plamondon of the agency Conway, Van Gelder, Robinson, said: "It was Joanna's decision not to continue with the Müller campaign. They were very keen for her to carry on but we

were unable to agree terms. There was no animosity at all. Joanna has a very high profile at the moment and would not see this as a problem. Campaigns are changing all the time."

Last night Miss Lumley said: "I only did one ad for them about four years ago. Apart from me, there was

also a man who did one of the yoghurt adverts. I didn't even know about the new campaign until now. I'm thrilled that Naomi Campbell is going to be in an ad. I think it's great."

Müller's first Naomi Campbell commercial, directed by the photographer David Bailey, will be screened on February 13.

Miss Campbell was flown from the United States on Concorde to film the commercial in a London studio over a day and a half last month. Ms Abernethy said: "She will be wearing very little indeed and will be performing her own form of seduction."

Müller, introduced in 1987, claims to sell 125 million pots a year and to be the best-selling yoghurt and fifth best-selling food brand in Britain.

Ms Abernethy said that Miss Lumley, who had featured in a £5 million a year advertising budget, had played a big part in the yoghurt's success.

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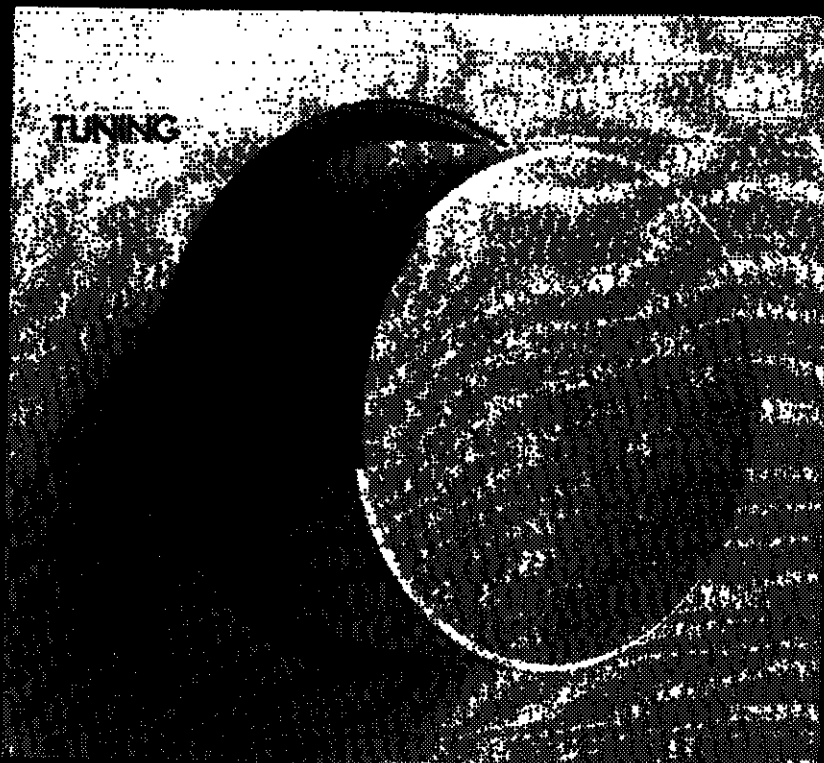
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Barrister smacked client's bottom and asked questions about her sex life

## QC suspended for sexually harassing woman defendant

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Queen's Counsel who asked a woman he was defending indecent questions about her sex life and smacked her bottom has been suspended for three months.

In the first case of sexual harassment to be brought against a barrister, Nigel Hamilton was suspended by the Inns of Court disciplinary tribunal after being found guilty of harassing both his client and a solicitor's clerk.

The penalty was condemned as inadequate by the 500-strong Association of Women Barristers who said the QC's conduct was "totally unprofessional".

The tribunal said Mr Hamilton had been found guilty of two charges of "engaging in conduct discreditable to a barrister" during the trial of a woman he was defending from January to October 1992. Mr Hamilton, who is in a set of chambers in Bristol, had asked his client indecent questions about her sex life, referred to her boyfriend by an insulting name, asked her indecent questions about her sex life, made indecent statements to her, and "smacked her backside".

He had also made sexual

innuendos to her about her diary, an exhibit in the case, and referred to her boyfriend in such a way as to suggest prejudice against his racial origins and to be insulting and hurtful to her, but without the intention to cause offence, the tribunal said.

During the trial, he had also "touched the backside" of a female clerk employed by the defendant's solicitor, made "lewd and offensive remarks about her body", asked her indecent questions about her sex life and had once made an indecent statement to her.

The tribunal suspended Mr Hamilton from practice as a barrister, from use of the Inner Temple and ordered him to pay £400 costs.

Afterwards a Bar spokesman said that sexual harassment was considered a serious breach of its code of conduct. The Bar Council, however, would not comment on allegations that there was a delay in bringing the case before the tribunal.

Barbara Hewson, vice-chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers, welcomed the finding. "Hamilton's behaviour was totally

unprofessional," she said. "Our only reservation is that his sentence was far too short."

"It says a lot about the culture of the criminal Bar that a senior QC could subject a client facing criminal charge to such disgraceful behaviour, while representing her and expect to get away with it."

A study from Sheffield University commissioned by the Bar and to be published later this month has found that 40 per cent of women barristers reported sexual harassment.

Ms Hewson added: "Women at the Bar are too frightened of losing their careers to complain. Most top QCs who run chambers do not know how to deal with complaints of harassment, and most sets do not have proper procedures to deal with complaints of discrimination."

Sexual harassment was a serious problem at the Bar, she added. "In one case we know of, a woman was forced to leave chambers after making a complaint. We hope the Hamilton case will encourage other victims of harassment at the Bar to take action. It shows complaining works."

Mr Hamilton is on holiday.



Nigel Hamilton was found guilty by the tribunal of discreditable conduct

## Tentacles of Tobruk claim a final victim

By ROBIN YOUNG

A WAR hero died from injuries he sustained in the battle of Tobruk over half a century ago, an inquest was told yesterday. The coroner recorded a verdict of death from "disease resulting from enemy action on active service" on Captain Leslie Farmiloe, MC, who died from cancer more than 50 years after asbestos fragments were blown into his body by an exploding shell.

James Kenroy, the Portsmouth Coroner, said: "It seems hard to believe that the tentacles of death from the Second World War can still reach out over half a century as sadly has happened in the case of Mr Farmiloe."

Captain Farmiloe was 79 when he died from a malignant mesothelioma on Christmas Day last year. At the inquest yesterday, the coroner said that the asbestos which caused the disease had entered his body when a German shell exploded in his gunnery pit in 1942.

Captain Farmiloe, the only occupant of the gun emplacement to survive, was invalided out of the Army in 1945. He was Lord Mayor of Westminster in 1963 and 1964, and a director of his family's paint and glass firm until he retired in 1973.

The coroner said: "We have heard how Mr Farmiloe had carried out actions of extreme gallantry during the fall of Tobruk. While performing these actions of bravery he was very seriously wounded."

"An enemy shell landed in or among ammunition boxes, and these were lined with asbestos. The shells in the boxes exploded and fragments of these shells, shrapnel, entered the captain. The fragments were carrying some asbestos and that would have been when the asbestos was implanted in his body."

Specialist medical reports had shown that Captain Farmiloe still had shell fragments in his body when he died.

Dr Richard Nainby-Luxmoore, a close family friend, said that Captain

Farmiloe had been with the 25th Light Royal Artillery defending Tobruk when Rommel's tanks attacked the city.

Dr Nainby-Luxmoore said: "Leslie was directing the fire of his batteries from 14mm Bofors guns, and inflicted enough damage to the advancing tanks to temporarily halt their advance. His position came under heavy shelling and his unit suffered very many casualties."

"Leslie told me how he was racing around trying to keep guns firing as the carnage worsened, until he ended up as the only man alive in his gun emplacement firing the gun himself. The Germans ranged in on his position and the next shell landed almost on Leslie, who was sitting, firing the gun surrounded by ammunition boxes. Some of these exploded."

Mr Farmiloe, who was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry at Tobruk, returned to Petersfield in Hampshire when his health deteriorated last year. The inquest was told that he did not talk about his experiences in the war, and the truth about the asbestos was revealed only when he spoke to Dr Nainby-Luxmoore six days before he died.



Farmiloe awarded MC for Tobruk gallantry

## Training head demoted to PC after vice allegations

By LUCY BERRINGTON

THE head of a police training college has been demoted after allegedly telling women trainees that he would help their careers in exchange for sexual favours.

Inspector Charles Treasure, of Pitting, Avon, was suspended on full pay in February last year after allegations that he propositioned a number of young special constables at Cannons Grove Police Training College in Taunton, Somerset. At a disciplinary hearing before the

Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police he was reduced to the rank of PC.

Chief Inspector Colin Benson, spokesman for Avon and Somerset police, said: "The force has an equal opportunity policy that we are proud of. The Chief Constable will deal very firmly with anybody who contravenes it." PC Treasure, who is married, refused to comment.

Two other cases of alleged sexual discrimination are under investigation by different forces. Inspector Tracy Scott, now of the Surrey

Police, and her partner, also a police officer, said their careers were destroyed by a whispering campaign at a training centre in Harrogate after they started a relationship. A further tribunal began yesterday in South Wales after Heather Milton claimed that the stress of a new police job led to her miscarriage in the eighth month of pregnancy.

The disputes come at a time of declining numbers of female police officers, despite a drive to recruit more women. The Metropolitan

Police last month launched a new equal opportunities policy after criticism that its former programme had failed and was seen as a method of censure rather than of widening opportunities.

Research by Dr Jennifer Brown, a psychologist employed by Hampshire Police, showed in 1993 that almost two thirds of policewomen had been sexually harassed by male colleagues. Six per cent had been sexually assaulted. If such a figure were applied to all police forces in England and Wales, it would sug-

gest 800 policewomen had been the victims of criminal assaults by colleagues. More than half had received persistent requests for dates.

Sean Howe, deputy editor of Police Review, said yesterday that recent research by the Metropolitan Police mirrored the findings of Dr Brown. "There is no evidence to suggest things have got any better, and lots of anecdotal evidence that women are subjected to inappropriate language, nasty sexual pranks and overt sexual harassment."

# Today - a chance to ban the export of British calves to continental veal crates

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\*The Protection of Calves (Export) Bill, tabled by Eric Martlew MP.



# Naafi food contract left forces to do the shopping

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by the Ministry of Defence to award a contract to the Naafi to supply all the food required by the armed forces turned into "a minor débâcle", MPs said yesterday. The Naafi (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes), given the contract in the interests of efficiency and cost saving, was unable to cope with the demand and some units had to buy their supplies from local supermarkets.

The MPs on the Commons Defence Committee called on Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General and head of the National Audit Office, to carry out his own investigation. In a report highlighting the difficulties that arose when the monopoly contract was awarded to the Naafi, the MPs demanded that the "costs of this minor débâcle" must not be passed to service personnel.

Under the old system, half

the food was supplied by the Naafi and the other half was delivered to units mainly by Royal Navy and Army depots. Since October last year, the Naafi had taken over responsibility for providing a daily delivery service "to every kitchen door".

The MPs said the contract was awarded without the usual competitive tendering, on the ground that it was considered more practical to stay with a supplier already familiar with MoD practices.

"In the light of subsequent events the wisdom of this approach could be questioned," the MPs said. They called on the MoD to introduce genuine competition into the services' food supply system at the earliest opportunity.

Under the new contract, intended to save £25 million a year, the Naafi had to deliver food to the services in the United Kingdom and Germany and ship food to Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. However, the Naafi's new computer suffered "major difficulties" in trying to keep up with demand, which led to a serious disruption in supplies.

Measures taken to ensure personnel got their food included using frozen food and extending order times to 72 hours from 48. Most fresh vegetables and fruit were delivered by local suppliers and the October shipment to the South Atlantic was prepared by the MoD instead of the Naafi.

The MPs' report said: "We are dismayed at the extent of the difficulties encountered, given that the Naafi had had extensive notice of the revised arrangements and had six months' experience of operating a similar system in Germany." They also said they were disturbed at the length of time it might take to remedy the difficulties.

Food Supply to the Armed Forces. House of Commons Defence Committee Third Report (Stationery Office, £8.10)



Royal Festival Hall staff listen to the new talking programmes, in which musicians and broadcasters discuss the works to be performed

## Concert hall adds notes to classical music

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT



Gregory York, formerly of Radio 3, tests the service

CONCERT-GOING is to be revolutionised with the introduction of "talking" programmes. Audiences at the Royal Festival Hall will, from tonight, be able to listen through headphones to musicians or broadcasters discussing the works before the performance.

It is the first big concert venue in Europe to introduce talking notes as a permanent service on such a scale, and intended to encourage those who are put off going to concerts because they feel they do not know enough

about music, the South Bank Centre says. The service was designed by Gregory York, a former Radio 3 broadcaster. Audiences will hear works discussed, live, about ten minutes before the start of the performance, between works and five minutes before the end of the interval.

Graham Sheffield, head of music at the South Bank Centre, said: "We want to make it as much like a mini-radio station as we can. It is not intended for people with a PhD in music. It is for music-lovers or first-time

concert-goers who may find concert protocol off-putting."

The South Bank Centre launches the Talking Notes to coincide with tonight's London Philharmonic Orchestra concert of Mendelssohn's overture Ruy Blas, Grieg's Piano Concerto, and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2, conductor Leon Goossens, soloist Artur Schnabel.

The Anvil concert hall in Basingstoke introduced the aural equivalent of the printed programme, so far used mainly by visually impaired people, last May.

## Gang girls arrested over attacks

Ten teenage girls were arrested in dawn raids yesterday after street attacks in Yeovil, Somerset. Shopkeepers were scattered as 20 schoolgirls stormed the town centre, singling out youngsters and subjecting them to what police said were vicious attacks.

The 10 suspects, aged between 14 and 18, all from Yeovil, were arrested on charges of violent disorder. They were released on police bail until March 9 pending further inquiries.

## Victim of bullies

A 12-year-old boy, named Bjorn Borg after the tennis star, had been chased by bullies shortly before he was killed last September stepping in front of a train at Gillingham, Kent, an inquest was told. Verdict: accidental death.

## Bomb charges

Jawed Mahmoud Botmeh, 27, and Nadia Zekra, 48, Jordanians living in London, were remanded in custody by Bow Street magistrates charged in connection with bomb explosions at the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charity.

## Bus driver jailed

Keith Calvert, 39, who admitted being 3½ times over the legal alcohol limit when driving children to school on his bus, was jailed for three months by Hull magistrates and banned from driving for three years.

## Title in a million

The title of lord of the manor for a Norfolk village is on offer to a buyer with at least £1 million. The title will go to whoever buys a tenanted arable farm covering 1,234 acres at South Creak near Fakenham.

## Speeding knight

Sir Gerald Whent, chief executive of the Vodafone group, was fined £80 with £25 costs after admitting driving at 45mph in a 30mph limit in Newbury, Berkshire. Newbury magistrates also gave him four penalty points.

## Trust buys mine

The site of the abandoned Wheal Owles tin mine near St Just, Cornwall, where 20 men drowned in 1893, has been bought by the National Trust. Two engine houses will now be restored. The miners' bodies were never recovered.

## Lesson in love

The boyfriend of a 28-year-old teacher at a primary school in Hinckley, Leicestershire, walked into assembly after a secret arrangement with other staff and proposed to her. The cheering children were invited to the May wedding.

## Seamen in glasses to keep watch

SHORT-SIGHTED officers who wear contact lenses or spectacles are to be allowed to keep watch on the bridge of Royal Navy warships for the first time, it was revealed yesterday.

The Navy has relaxed the standard of vision required by officers on watch because of recent improvements in visual aids. The move should also help the Service to recruit more officers and retain them for longer. Their eyesight will still be tested annually to ensure minimum standards.

There are few restrictions on the wearing of spectacles or contact lenses in the Service. The Navy will continue to insist that contact lenses must not be worn in submarines, by aircrew or under gas-masks.

## Husband sees wife killed by police car on 999 call

SCOTLAND YARD started an inquiry yesterday into the death of a 22-year-old Turkish woman knocked down by a police car as she crossed the road ahead of her husband (Stewart Tindler writes).

Yusuf Ozer turned from locking his car on Wednesday night to see his wife Yeter thrown into the air by the impact. The couple had been married less than three months. Mrs Ozer was hit in

Finsbury Park, north London, by a police Vauxhall Astra on an emergency call to a suspected robbery. Yesterday the 29-year-old officer at the wheel was suspended from driving duties. He is on sick leave.

A week ago another pedestrian was hit on a zebra crossing in north London by a police car answering an emergency call. In both cases the cars had their blue lights on but not sirens. Scotland

Yard said it was too early to say whether the policy of switching the sirens off in some circumstances would be reviewed.

Mr Ozer said: "I was locking the car and saw or heard nothing. Then as I looked up my wife was 20ft in the air. I ran towards her to try to catch her before she landed on the ground but it was too late. She came down on her back with a terrible thud. The car didn't have its siren on so we had no warning as it was already dark."

The Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The police car was responding to what he thought was an armed incident at a betting shop. The driver had his lights and siren on but as he approached he switched the siren off as he believed suspects may have been around." Last week John Stanley, 53, was killed in Kentish Town when he was hit by a police car at night.

## Memory of crash led man to suicide

AN ACCOUNTANT killed himself when he regained his memory of a fatal car crash after eight years, an inquest was told.

James Davies, 27, gassed himself in his car when the details of the accident came back to him. He had told his grandmother that the death of a young mother and her child in the collision had been playing on his conscience.

His father, Brian Davies, said in a statement to the Winchester inquest that his son suffered serious head and leg injuries and fell into a coma after the crash.

He said: "Since then he had moody periods and I wonder if we knew the extent of his head injuries. The death of a woman and child in the accident had a profound effect on him." He added: "Everyone is mystified why James took this course of action because he seemed to be getting better." In December last year he

drove to Farley Mount near Winchester, Hampshire, and gassed himself.

He was missing for three days before his body was discovered by a couple walking their dog. A post-mortem examination showed that he died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

The inquest was told that Mr Davies, who lived with his parents in Sunningdale, Berkshire, had a £14,000 student loan to repay.

Graham Short, the mid-Hampshire coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide and added: "The accident clearly left mental scars, as well as the physical injuries he sustained, and they must have weighed heavily on him."

He also noted that Mr Davies may have been concerned about the ending of a recent relationship. He said: "Although no note was found I am satisfied he intended to take his own life."

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Lady Helen Taylor and Helena Bonham Carter

## New law aims to deter stalkers

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who are stalked and harassed by men will have greater protection under a new law making it an offence to cause intentional alarm or distress. People convicted of the offence will face a maximum six-month jail term and/or a fine up to £5,000 as part of new criminal justice measures that come into operation today.

The measures, initially intended to deal with persistent racial harassment, could be used by police in other areas. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday: "It does in fact have a wider application. It could cover all kinds of harassment including stalking," he said.

After several incidents in which celebrities including Lady Helen Taylor, daughter of the Duchess of Kent, and Helena Bonham Carter, the actress, have been stalked by men, there had been calls for tougher action.

The new offence is one of 71 of the 172 sections of the

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. To halt witness intimidation, a new offence has been created carrying a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

A measure to make parents take greater responsibility for the children's behaviour was criticised by penal reform groups who said that it would increase delinquency. Courts will have the power to bind over the parents to ensure that their children comply with the requirements of community sentences. If the child fails to comply with the sentence, the parent will be liable to forfeit £1,000.

The Penal Affairs Consortium said that the measure would produce injustice and place struggling families under greater financial pressure. "Punishing parents does not help to reinforce the vital need for young offenders to face up to their responsibility for their own actions."

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# Lord Mackay backs fixed fees to curb legal aid bill

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is negotiating proposals with the Bar and Law Society for tough controls on the level of legal aid fees paid to lawyers in many criminal cases.

With the total legal aid bill standing at £1.3 billion a year, Lord Mackay of Clashfern wants to bring many cases now handled by Queen's Counsel under new fixed scales of fees. The changes would end the practice by which legal aid bills are run up and, at the end of the case, submitted for approval at the discretion of court-taxing officers.

The measures would extend the system of standard fees which at present cover only small cases lasting up to three days. Instead, all Crown cases

up to ten days would be included. The details are being worked out with the profession, and officials hope to lay regulations in the spring.

In civil legal aid cases, controls are planned for smaller cases through a similar system of standard or set fees, although bigger civil actions will still not be covered. The moves come at a time of mounting concern over the costs of barristers' fees, in particular, for legal aid work.

For the first time, a breakdown of the criminal legal aid bill was released this week, which showed that more than £140 million was paid out from the legal aid fund for barristers' fees in 1993-94 for defence work. The figures from the Lord Chancellor's Department also showed that, during the same time, another £82.4 million was paid to barristers for their prosecution work, from agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service (£72.3 million) Customs and Excise (£5 million) and the Serious Fraud Office (£4.2 million). Solicitors' fees, their costs, and travel costs of all lawyers, totalled £289.2 million. The total criminal legal aid bill was £432 million.

The figures, given in parliamentary answers, may add to disaffection among solicitors over what they see as the high fees paid to senior barristers from legal aid funds. Although solicitors account for most of the £1.3 billion legal aid bill, their rates are more strictly controlled and there is bitterness in some quarters of the profession over the high fees paid to leading counsel.

The figures also showed that an estimated 50 barristers received more than £100,000 in fees (excluding VAT and travelling expenses) from criminal legal aid in 1993-94; and an estimated 100 barristers got more than £100,000 (inclusive of VAT and travelling expenses) from civil legal aid in the same year.

## Solicitor condemns court greed

By FRANCES GIBB

A SENIOR London solicitor will today launch an attack on the "greed" and "unscrupulousness" of fellow lawyers. He says that they have wasted millions of pounds of public and private money.

David McIntosh, senior partner in the City law firm Davies Arnold Cooper, says some lawyers deliberately embark on unsuccessful civil litigation to make as much money as possible. For too long, Mr McIntosh says, lawyers have acted as judge and jury over their costs and expect their clients to offer them a blank cheque for their services.

His comments will come at a seminar on access to civil justice at London University, the last in a series of public sessions being held by Lord Woolf as part of his inquiry into civil justice.



The many roles of Donald Pleasence (clockwise from top left): as a caterpillar in *Alice Through The Looking Glass* on commercial television in 1960; with his daughter Angela in *The Barchester Chronicles* in 1982; in *The Caretaker* in 1991; as himself; with James Garner in *The Great Escape* in 1963; and as Julius Caesar on BBC1 in 1971

## Donald Pleasence, master of malice, dies at 75

By JOE JOSEPH

DONALD PLEASENCE, ranked among Britain's finest character actors and once hailed by *Time* magazine as a performer of "atomic power and blinding virtuosity", died yesterday at his home in the south of France. He was 75.

Pleasence, who rarely lived up to his surname in a lifetime playing villains ranging from Himmeler and Crippen to Bond's despotic enemy Blofeld, had been recovering from a heart valve replacement, his agent Tessa Sutherland said.

He was believed to be fit again and was planning to visit London to

put the final touches to his latest film, *Halloween 6*, to be released later this year. It will provide the final outing for the piercing blue eyes and billiard-ball pate that became Pleasence's fortune during a 55-year stage and screen career.

"There was absolutely no warning anything was wrong," Ms Sutherland said. "It must have been a very nice way to go. He was working right up to the end."

The director David Giles, a close friend, thought Pleasence undervalued: "He played many villains because he played them so well. He could look amazingly malevolent, although he was one of the least

malevolent people I have ever met. He was never properly appreciated, perhaps because his height was against him or because he never played any of the great classic parts, although he was wonderful on stage."

Mr Giles, who directed him in the BBC's acclaimed *The Barchester Chronicles*, said: "He was a perfectionist and one of my memories of him is trying to play the cello as the warden because his character did."

Sydney Samelson, the British Film Commissioner, said Pleasence "was typical of the great depth of talent that Britain has that no one else has. Donald Pleasence was

everything that was sinister, terrifying, frightening. He was the anchor in the British sea of acting talent. If you wanted someone sinister, you needed to look no further than Donald Pleasence. He had a brilliant career."

That career included his 1960 portrayal of the tramp Davies in *The Caretaker*, a performance that made the names of both Pleasence and Harold Pinter. It embraced stage plays and more than 70 films: they covered the cultural waterfront from Shakespeare and *The Great Escape*, through the Bond thriller *You Only Live Twice*, to *The Eagle Has Landed* and horror movies;

psychopaths were a specialty. Pleasence, who listed his recreation in *Who's Who* as "talking too much", often said he did not really enjoy acting; that it was, rather, a "compulsive thing". He once confessed: "I alternate between being terrified and being bored, yet there is a curious excitement in it the whole time."

His fourth wife, Linda, was with him in their hilltop home in St Paul de Venise when he died. He is also survived by his five daughters, three of whom are actresses. He is expected to be buried in Britain.

Obituary, page 19



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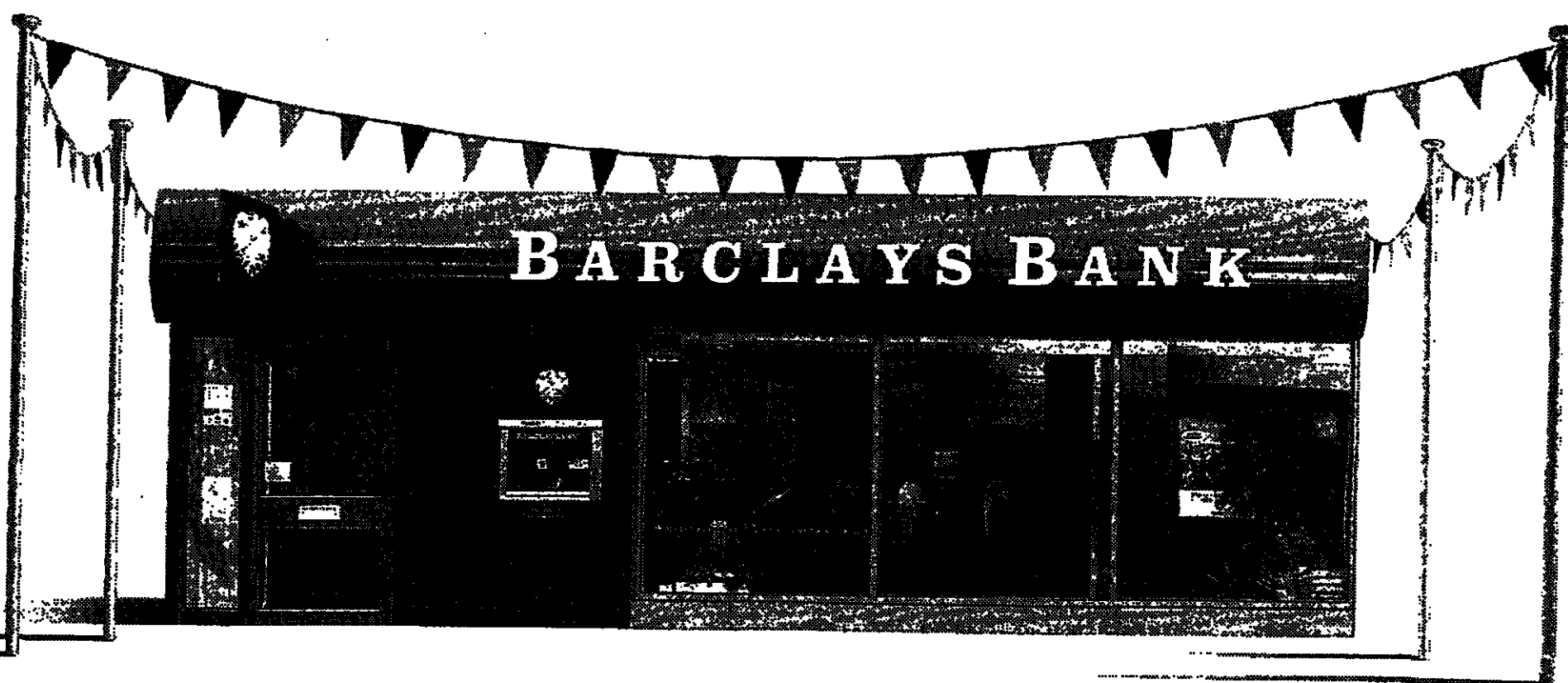
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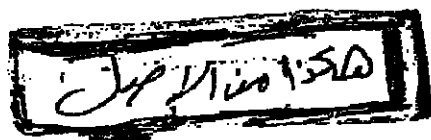


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Bottomley promises work reforms to father of houseman who died after 86-hour week

## Fifth of junior doctors quitting profession

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY has given a pledge to the father of a young doctor whose family says he was worked to death that junior doctors' hours will be cut.

The Health Secretary's letter of reassurance came as a report revealed that one in five junior doctors is leaving the profession, resulting in cuts in patient services and threatening the closure of hospital departments.

The scale of the problem was highlighted yesterday when Peterborough NHS trust disclosed that it had offered local GPs £50 an hour, five times the rate for junior doctors, to work in its accident and emergency department from 1pm to 8am.

Bryan Harty, the trust's director of operations, said: "We had a good response and many of them had previously worked in accident and emergency. We expect our reliance on them to diminish over the next couple of months as we recruit more juniors. The alternative was closing the department at night."

Mrs Bottomley, whose daughter is a junior doctor at St Thomas's Hospital, London, wrote of her sorrow over the death of Dr Alan Massie, 26, who collapsed and died at Warrington General Hospital after working an 86-hour week

in January last year. In her four-page letter to George Massie, of Macclesfield, Mrs Bottomley set out in detail her plans to cut doctors' hours. "I can well understand how much the loss of your son has meant to you. I can only try to explain that your concerns over the long hours worked by junior doctors are mine too," she wrote.

Mr Massie said that he was pleased with Mrs Bottomley's letter. "I think she is very sincere in what she is saying, and I hope she succeeds." An inquest on Dr Massie in December ruled that he died of sudden adult death syndrome, a natural cause. His father said that his son would still be alive if he had not been forced to work 29-hour shifts because the hospital's management had cut locum cover.

Falling morale, overwork and the desire of women doctors to start families are believed to be behind the exodus from the NHS, which is highlighted in a report to be sent to ministers this month by the Standing Advisory Committee on Medical Manpower.

The independent committee of senior doctors and economists, chaired by Professor Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University, says that action is



Dr Massie collapsed after 29-hour shifts

necessary to correct a national shortage of junior doctors. The cuts in hours initiated by Mrs Bottomley are adding to the pressure on hospitals.

Almost 60 senior house officer posts are advertised in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*, most in accident and emergency. Many hospitals, including some at half strength, are hiring doctors from the European Community. Locum agencies in the West Midlands who were last year charging £500 for each post filled have raised their fees to £2,000.

Professor Sir Norman Browne, president of the Royal

College of Surgeons, said: "The big unanswered question is, where are all the doctors going? The most obvious possibility is that women are leaving to have families. Women now account for half of all newly qualified doctors."

"But I think there are also more people going into medicine who haven't thought what life as a doctor is like. In the past there were many more sons of doctors and nurses going into medicine. They didn't make better doctors but they did at least understand the pressures."

Dr Fiona Caldicott, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and a member of the manpower committee, said evidence showed that 20 per cent of junior doctors were not practising five years after qualifying.

Reasons for the fall-out were complex but there were "warning signs" that overwork was contributing, she said. Shortages were being felt in orthopaedics, psychiatry and paediatrics. The committee has commissioned Professor James Parkhouse of Oxford University to investigate the reasons for the exodus.

Cuts in junior doctors' hours to a maximum of 56 by next year and shorter training will mean an extra 30-40 per cent more consultants will be required, according to Health Department estimates.



Mrs Bottomley, whose daughter is a junior doctor, arriving for a Cabinet meeting yesterday

## GPs cover as lack of staff threatens casualty section

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY GPs and former doctors from the Law Hospital in Carlisle, Strathclyde, have volunteered to do shifts in the accident and emergency department, threatened with closure after only two of the eight junior doctor posts were filled.

Rotas have been drawn up for 24-hour cover this month, but the future remains unclear. Karon Hamilton, a hospital spokeswoman, said the management was determined to keep the service going. Law Hospital's casualty department treats about 40,000 patients a year, including many victims of accidents on the nearby M74.

The hospital has advertised in the local press, asking the public to stay away from casualty if their complaint is minor. "Obviously, if people are concerned or if their complaint is serious they should come to the hospital. We are optimistic that the facility will continue to operate a 24-hour service. It may have to do so with fewer staff," the hospital said.

An emergency meeting will take place today to determine the future of two hospitals in Angus, where the shortage of junior doctors is stretching services.

Arbroath Infirmary and Strathclyde Hospital have

both been badly affected by the lack of junior doctors. Today, Tayside Health Board will review the position of the casualty departments at both hospitals.

Andrew Welsh, the Scottish National Party MP for Angus East, said he had been told that the staffing problem at Arbroath had been partially resolved but added: "I want no sticking-plaster job here. Angus deserves the best possible hospital service."

Two years ago, we had three packed meetings at Arbroath and were given assurances that the medical unit and the accident and emergency department at Arbroath Infirmary would be fully retained. We want no reversal of that promise."

Four junior doctors who took their fight for higher rates of overtime pay to an Edinburgh industrial tribunal have lost their case.

The doctors claimed their overtime rate was too low when the nature of their extra duties and lack of sufficient rest were taken into account. The tribunal dismissed the doctors' complaints against Fife and Forth Valley Health Boards, saying there could be reclassification of the doctors' terms and conditions in future but that the boards had not acted unreasonably.

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North	Game all IMPs
♠ 109 ♥ J 10 8 7 4 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ Q 6 5	♠ K 4 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 8 6 5 ♣ J 7 2
♠ A Q 8 7 ♥ Q 6 3 2 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 8 4 3	♠ J 6 5 ♥ A K 5 ♦ A 10 9 7 2 ♣ A K

W	N	E	S
MacKintosh	Sharif	Redwell	Mahmood
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
All pass	34 (1)	Double	Redble

Contract: 34 Doubled, by North. Opening lead: ♠ 2

(1) Transfer bid, showing at least five hearts.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

On his deal from the MacKintosh Pairs Mahmood and Sharif punished the eventual winners for one of their less sound lead-directing doubles. MacKintosh and Redwell believe doubling conventional bids indicate a lead, taking the view that the advantage so gained more than offsets the occasional disaster. This time, though, Zia was able to redouble Redwell's double of Three Diamonds, and Sharif made a courageous pass.

East led a club. Sharif won and played a spade, to set up a

spade ruff in his own hand. East won and the defence played two more spades. Sharif ruffed in hand, and led a heart through East. Once he had the heart trick, he unblocked South's remaining high club, came back to the king of diamonds, threw a heart from dummy on the club queen, and played a trump through East.

Declarer came to one spade ruff, one heart trick, four diamond tricks in the South hand, and three club tricks. North-South's score of 840 was an excellent result, as other North-Souths were going down in Four Hearts.

### KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hunting the king

Kingpins, where one side's monarch is chased across the board, are relatively rare but I have recently noticed a crop of such games. One was between Zvjantsev and Cifuentes, which I published on January 31. The second was Gulef's win against Cooper yesterday. Here is a third. Black sets various mating traps with his bishop on c6 aligned towards the white king but White thwarts these to deliver a spectacular checkmate.

White: Arthur Freeman

Black: Felix Oyens

London, 1995

French Defence

1 d4 e6

2 c4 d5

3 Nc3 Bb4

4 e5 c5

5 a3 Bxc3+

6 bxc3 Qc7

7 Nf3 Bc7

8 a4 Nb5

9 Bc3 cxd4

10 O-O Nd5

11 a2 Nc4

12 Bc4 Qc4

13 Bx4 Nf5

14 Ng2 Qc4

15 Re1 Rb8

16 Bf2 Rb4

17 Qf4 Rb4

18 Qf4 Rb4

19 Qf4 Rb4

20 Qf4 Rb4

21 Qf4 Rb4

22 Qf4 Rb4

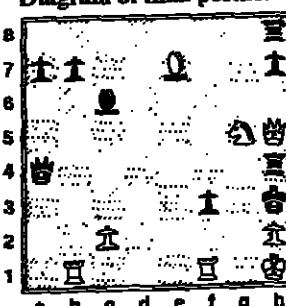
23 Qf4 Rb4

24 Qf4 Rb4

25 Qf4 Rb4

26 Qd8+	Kf7
27 Qe7+	Kg6
28 Qg7+	Kf5
29 Qf7+	Kf4
30 Bg7+	Kf3
31 Qh5+	Rh4
32 Ng5	checkmate

Diagram of final position



If any reader has played a particularly spectacular king hunt, please send details of the game for possible publication. Readers are reminded that all those who write to me with a game, query or comment will receive an issue of the *British Chess Magazine*, while all those whose contributions are published will receive a six-month BCM subscription.

Correction

The diagram in yesterday's article did not correspond to the final position of the game Cooper-Gulef where White resigned. It was, in fact, a repeat of the final position of the game Rogers-Engqvist (given on January 20) where Black resigned.

Winning Move, page 40

## Exhaust filter may cut diesel emissions by 90%

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH engineers have developed a simple filter for diesel vehicles which, they claim, removes more than 90 per cent of the soot emissions linked by scientists to cancer and breathing difficulties.

Manufacturers hope the filter will restore the "green" image of diesel engines, which has been damaged by reports that the ultra fine particles emitted from their exhausts may account for thousands of deaths a year. Johnson Matthey, which makes a third of the world's catalytic converters, has been testing the device on buses in London and Sweden.

The filter, called the continuously regenerating trap, can be fitted in place of the silencers on diesel heavy goods vehicles, dustcarts and buses. They cost between £3,500 and £4,000, compared with £1,000 for a silencer.

Peter Duff, engineering director of Stagecoach East London, which has filters on two of its buses, said: "It is quite an expensive piece of equipment but the environmental lobby is moving forward at a pace and there will be pressure to install such devices all across London." He said it cut emissions by 90 per cent and eliminated the smell of diesel.

The filters are not suitable for diesel cars, but Dr Pelfham Hawker, of Johnson Matthey's catalytic systems division, said that 95 per cent of the particles in the air were caused by traffic and that 84 per cent of those were from trucks or buses.

Tighter Europe-wide emission standards are to be introduced next year and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, plans to give local authorities new powers to curb air pollution. Johnson Matthey hopes the rules might include allowing councils to specify emissions control technology for dustcarts and buses.



Gummer: new curbs against air pollution

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# Backbench Tories warn against Euro-sceptic 'folly'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 50 Tory MPs warned the Government yesterday that it would be "folly" to rule out British membership of a single European currency.

The pro-European wing of the party served notice on John Major that despite the Cabinet's Euro-sceptic shift, a firm commitment to the EU still attracts a strong following on the Tory benches.

The Positive European Group's two-page manifesto, published last night, was a veiled warning to the Prime Minister not to go too far in appeasing the nine whipless Tory rebels and their Euro-sceptic allies inside and outside the Cabinet.

Members of the group attacked last month's rival manifesto from the whipless nine as a recipe for British withdrawal, and urged ministers to accept the need for compromise with their European partners in the negotiations over next year's inter-governmental conference.

Mr Major's vision of a Britain at the heart of Europe could still be realised if the Government were to seek Continental allies in its efforts to resist centralising tendencies in the EU, the Positive European manifesto said.

In a sign of their restiveness at the recent shift in government policy, the Positive Europeans appealed to ministers to be far more outspoken on the benefits of EU membership and in countering Euro-scep-

tic propaganda. The centre-left, led by figures such as the former ministers Ray Whitney and Tristan Garel-Jones, entered the fray as it emerged that the warring factions in the party are squaring up for a battle over what the next manifesto will say about a single European currency.

John Major has stilled the immediate argument inside the party by making plain he will not support a single currency in 1996 and 1997. But he has yet to give a long-term pronouncement on the issue that could tear the party apart in the run-up to the next election.

Right-wing ministers have indicated that they will be looking for a firm commitment in the manifesto ruling out British membership of a single currency in the five-year lifetime of the next Parliament. They believe that full economic and monetary union would damage the British economy and, more importantly, represent an unacceptable transfer of sovereignty to a supranational body.

But ministers on the centre-left are determined to deny the Right such a commitment. They want the Government to leave open the possibility of Britain joining a single currency by the latest starting date under the Maastricht treaty of 1999.

They have warned privately that they would not campaign for a manifesto that ruled out a single currency for the rest of

the century. A manifesto commitment to hold a referendum on any move to a single currency might prove Mr Major's only hope of bridging the gap between the two sides.

The Positive European paper, signed by 52 backbenchers, called for "careful study of the issues surrounding a single currency." Given Britain's position as a major trading nation and financial centre it would be folly to rule out our membership of a single currency grouping at some time in the future — but this does not arise now. Any decisions we reach must take full account of our national interests and their impact on the economy.

Privately, pro-European MPs are saying that if Britain stood aloof from a single currency inward investment would be badly hit, jobs would be lost and the City would lose its place as a pre-eminent international financial centre. Their paper, drawn up after meetings in recent weeks, was a riposte to the "mission statement" by the whipless rebels, which called on the Government to scrap British involvement in economic and monetary union and demand sharp pruning of the powers and scope of EU institutions.

The Positive Europeans say that the rebel approach would alienate Britain's potential allies in the IGC talks "and could risk precipitating our departure from the Union".



## Clarke keeps foot on the brake and an eye on the main chance

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Government's economic policy can be summed up simply as "better a little squeeze now than a lot of pain later", or do the opposite of what the Thatcher-Lawson regime did in 1987-88. Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George may have been right on economic grounds to raise interest rates yesterday. But it is a high-risk political strategy, affecting not only the timing of the next general election but also its possible outcome.

Mr George's central banker instincts, matching what Alan Greenspan has been doing in America over the past year, chime in with Mr Clarke's characteristic desire to be seen as a tough Chancellor. The theory is that early action to tighten monetary policy via a series of small rises in interest rates will prevent a return to the double digit inflation of four years ago. Such a gradual squeeze will prevent a big expansion of credit, as happened in the late 1980s, and will dampen inflationary expectations and behaviour. This should, ministers hope, result in a slowdown in growth from the

unsustainably high rates last year, thus enabling the Chancellor to announce tax cuts in this November's Budget without risking the charge that he is stoking up an already overheated economy.

Some analysts argue that the economy has already slowed down, though CBI surveys suggest that manufacturing orders remain strong. But this is really only a matter of whether rates are raised this month or next.

The central question is how far rates will have to rise. Last September, when monetary policy began to be tightened, the private hope of senior ministers was that the peak would not be much above 7 per cent. This would still leave rates much lower than during most of the 1980s, though the Prime Minister was wrong yesterday to suggest that rates under Labour were never as low as now. They were, briefly, in autumn 1977.

Hopes of a 7 per cent peak now look rather optimistic. Rates may have to be in-

creased perhaps a couple of times above the present 6.75 per cent. If that happens, many of the benefits of the fall in interest rates since 1990 will be cancelled out, especially since mortgage tax relief is being reduced and house buyers will have to pay more for mortgage insurance cover.

The timing could be tricky. The Tories are hoping for 12 to 18 months of increases in disposable incomes before an election, starting this summer. Ministers have been counting on lower mortgage rates than in the early 1990s to reinforce the impact of a recovery in disposable incomes and of income tax cuts this November, and probably a year later, to help to create a "feel-good" factor before the election. At present, despite a strong recovery in manufacturing and exports, public confidence in the economy is low because living standards are being squeezed, taxes are still rising and the housing market is patchy.

If interest rates have to be raised further, any pre-election rise in real disposable incomes will be smaller. Hopes of a gradual slowdown to sustainable, steady growth will also be jeopardised. We will be back to jerky, big changes in interest rates, and sharper movements in levels of output and unemployment.

The biggest threat to the Tories' electoral prospects could come from very rapid growth in the short term. This could result not only in higher interest rates but also make it harder to announce big income tax cuts before the election. That is why yesterday's announcement makes sense, both economically and politically. The harder decisions will come later if the monetary squeeze has to be intensified and fiscal policy has to be tightened with big tax cuts being ruled out. That will test not only the new quasi-independent position of the Bank of England but it could also strain relations between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor.

BY PETER RIDDELL

## Blair team accused of smear campaign

BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A TRADE union leader accused Tony Blair's aides yesterday of a campaign to discredit him and to "crush, annihilate and humiliate" all those who oppose the changing of Clause Four.

Bill Morris, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that they had unleashed the "dogs of war" against him within hours of his statement that he was against substantial recrafting of the party's commitment to public ownership.

Mr Morris said that the Labour leader's spin doctors and advisers had immediately briefed the press insidiously about his "confused, muddled and pusillanimous behaviour". In an interview with the *Spectator*, he said the Labour aides had continued to discredit him and had become increasingly intolerant of Mr Blair's critics.

For Blair's advisers it's got to be total victory over people who dare contribute to the debate and so expose themselves. The dogs of war were unleashed against me but I am not bothered. My street credibility rises every time they attack me," he said.

"All this week I have been waiting for the men from Tony's office to turn up in their white coats to take me away because I was diagnosed as muddled and confused."

The claims are likely to fuel growing concern in the party about the way the leader's office is run. Many MPs feel sidelined by Mr Blair's aides, who are seen to dominate the shaping of party policy.

Mr Blair's office was said to be deeply embarrassed by the accusations.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by debates on Social Security (Incapacity for Work) regulations and on the science budget.

In the Lords, debates were held on the Environment Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediator) (Scotland) Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, MPs will debate the Proceeds of Crime Bill, second reading, opened by Sir John Hanning, Tory MP for Exeter, and the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Bill, opened by Dr Michael Clark, Tory MP for Rochford. The Lords are not sitting.

## Civil servants repeating errors

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CIVIL servants were criticised sharply yesterday for failing to learn from their mistakes in dealing with complaints from the public.

William Reid, the ombudsman for public service standards, voiced his irritation that government departments were repeating bad practices in spite of previous criticism. He identified the Child Support Agency last month as a persis-

tent offender in failing to deal adequately with complaints.

Yesterday he criticised government departments for delays, misdirection, poor handling of complaints and correspondence, and errors in assessing pensions and benefits. He said it was a matter of public concern when shortcomings were repeated.

Mr Reid, who deals with complaints made by MPs on

behalf of constituents, listed 79 cases of alleged bad practice. The biggest offenders remained the Social Security Department, which between July and October last year had 24 out of 33 complaints upheld, and the Inland Revenue, which had 7 out of 17 upheld.

Most cases were dealt with by an apology but one man was awarded £4,169 in compensation for a VAT error.

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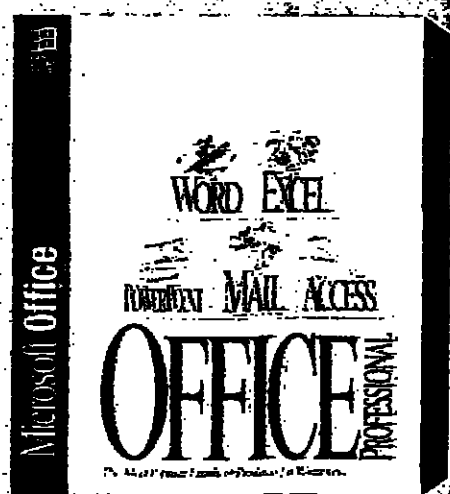
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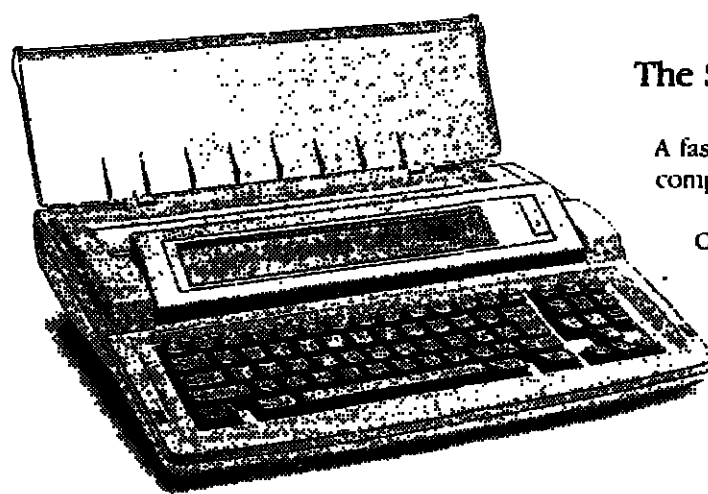
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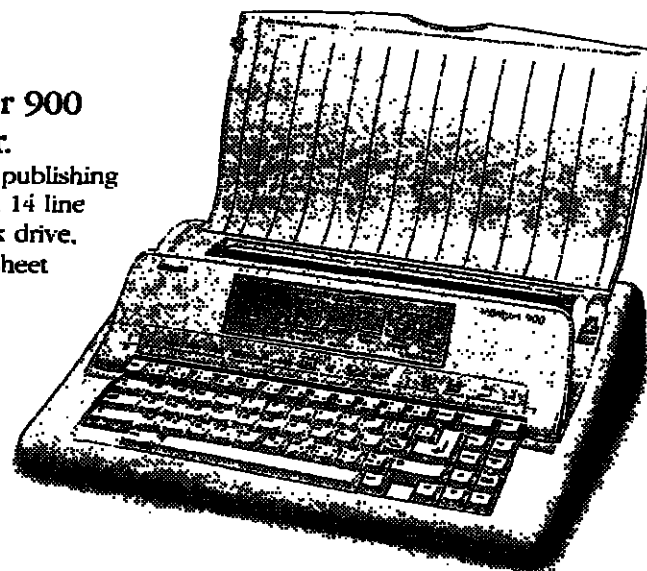
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# Summit in Cairo keeps Israel peace show on the road

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE four main players in the shaky Middle East peace process met last night in Cairo in an attempt to rescue the negotiations.

Backed by the United States, which is concerned about the implications of any breakdown in the attempts to forge a new era of stability in the region, the gathering was primarily a media event designed to demonstrate, in the words of one senior Israeli official, "that despite all the difficulties, the show goes on". The peace effort has come under severe threat from Islamic extremists and expansionist Jewish settlement programmes on Arab land conquered in 1967.

Shortly before Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was invited to take the unusual step of joining the three Muslim leaders in the traditional *iftar* meal which breaks the daily fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, it was announced that talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, halted by the suicide bombing that claimed the lives of 21 young Jews last month, are to resume next week in Cairo. The resumption was announced by Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian delegate.

The decision was taken by the Israeli Government in the face of repeated opinion polls showing a majority of the Israeli public now in favour of delaying the talks, as demanded by President Weizman. The aim of the discussions is to determine a date for Israeli withdrawal from large areas of the West Bank and for holding the first Palestinian elections.

In another attempt to improve the present strained atmosphere, Moshe Shahal,

Israel's Police Minister, announced he was ready to open talks today about gradually lifting the ban preventing Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza crossing to work in Israel.

Last night's unprecedented summit took place in the shadow of further clashes in the West Bank between Arabs and Jews over the continued building of Jewish settlements and the approval by the Jerusalem municipality for the building of a new settlement suburb near Bethlehem which will provide 6,500 extra Jewish homes on territory seized from Jordan in 1967.

An Israeli peace group, Gush Shalom, sent an angry telegram to Mr Rabin before he left for Egypt demanding that he override the decision to build the new neighbourhood of Har Homa, part of a ring of Jewish areas being constructed around Jerusalem. "What is the point of going to Cairo for a summit meant to revive the peace process, and on the same day give approval to implement a gross provocation against peace?", the group asked.

Attending the unprecedented emergency summit were

the host, President Mubarak, Mr Rabin, whose domestic political standing is at its lowest ebb since his election in 1992. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader whose credibility is fast diminishing among ordinary Palestinians, and King Hussein of Jordan, whose recent peace treaty with the Jewish state is opposed by Islamic militants inside his kingdom.

Absent was President Assad of Syria, without whom there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East and who has recently shown no willingness to compromise over the crucial issue of the occupied Golan Heights.

In Israel the summit was preceded 24 hours earlier by a large right-wing rally demanding Mr Rabin's resignation and supporting a draconian security operation inside Gaza outlined to cheering crowds by Reserve General Ariel Sharon, of the main opposition Likud Party. Elyahu Ben-Elissar, a leading Likud member and Israel's first Ambassador to Cairo, dismissed the Cairo meeting as "like a Turkish bath, all hot air". Government supporters claimed the talks had importance. "The message is in the image of those four leaders standing together and supporting the peace process," Uri Dromi, chief Government spokesman, said.

Mr Rabin had told Labour Party members that demands that the PLO take greater effort to restrain the Islamic terrorists would be top of Israel's summit agenda. However, Intissar al-Wazir, the new Palestinian Minister of Social Affairs, said: "Even large countries could not stop such attacks."

Leading article, page 17



Maaleh Adumim, the Jewish settlers' city in the West Bank, where the Israeli Government has approved the building of 1,800 new homes

## Settlers put new obstacles in way of talks

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ON A spectacular hillside in the Judean wilderness looking east to the mountains of Moab and Edom, Israeli concrete mixers are noisily putting into practice the Labour Government's decision to sanction the building of 1,800 new homes in Maaleh Adumim, which is already home to more than 20,000 Jewish settlers.

The unrelenting expansion of such Jewish enclaves on occupied Arab land all around Jerusalem is one of the main reasons, along with Islamic terrorist attacks, that yesterday's unprecedented four-way summit was called in Cairo in an attempt to rescue the peace process from self-destruction.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation said the Government's decision infringed the 17-month-old peace

agreement, and Peace Now, an Israeli pressure group, predicted that the move would "bring a tremendous clash" with the Palestinians.

For the residents of Maaleh Adumim the go-ahead was confirmation that Labour, like Likud, the main right-wing Opposition party, regards the city as part of the Jewish state. It is officially referred to as being in Greater Jerusalem, although it is five miles from the edge of the eastern sector annexed by Israel.

"We do not like the description 'settlement' as that implies something impermanent, while we fully intend to remain here for ever," Orit Eliyahu, a local council spokeswoman, said. "To us this is as much a part of Israel as Tel Aviv. We are not going to give it up to the Arabs."

During the heated meeting of the new Cabinet committee that sanc-

tioned the expansion, Shulamit Aloni, the left-wing Culture Minister, said to Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister: "You are just like the Likud. Did you think that the Arabs must also live somewhere?" Mr Rabin replied: "I think about the Israelis."

Yesterday Israeli soldiers scuffled with Palestinian farmers who tried to stop the building of a road for Jewish settlers through Arab fields in the occupied West Bank, villagers said.

They said most residents of al-Midye village, near the border with Israel, had joined the protest and briefly stopped a bulldozer before the soldiers arrived. Villagers said one Palestinian was arrested but nobody was hurt. Workmen resumed digging after the protesters were dispersed.

To the dismay of the PLO, which is facing pressure to abandon peace talks if the Israeli construction on

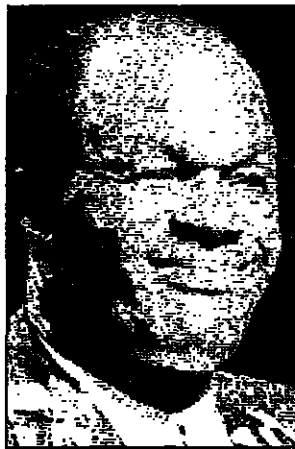
occupied land goes on, new figures show that Labour is building settlers' homes at a faster rate than Likud. From 1979 to 1992 the previous Government built 4,000 flats in Maaleh Adumim: Labour will have added 2,000 in four years.

Maaleh Adumim, has an industrial zone, 14 synagogues, a supermarket, a bank, 44 kindergartens and with plans to expand its population to 50,000. It does not look as though it will ever be evacuated. A glossy brochure for prospective residents describes it as "A City on the Edge of Tomorrow".

Saeb Erekat, a senior PLO negotiator who has seen the city grow from the habitation of 23 Jewish families in 1975, described the new permits as a calculated plan to create permanent homes before the final status of Jerusalem and the West Bank is negotiated in 1996.

## Bankrupt Washington faces Congress takeover

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



Barry: could expunge shame of prison term

WASHINGTON is to all intents and purposes bankrupt, presenting President Clinton with a financial crisis much closer to home than rescuing Mexico's economy, which he set out to do on Tuesday.

Marion Barry, the city's mayor, said he had discovered a further \$250 million (£147 million) in overspending and unpaid bills, and projected a total deficit this year of \$722 million. That would be a fifth of Washington's annual \$3.5 billion operating budget and more than double the previous year's record deficit of \$335

million. Mr Barry said Washington was facing its "most serious financial crisis since 1873", when Congress assumed direct control of the debt-ridden city.

A similar step is again in prospect unless the Democratic mayor can quickly convince Capitol Hill's sceptical Republicans that he can get spending under control.

Washington regained its autonomy in 1974, but "home rule is a contingent on presenting a balanced budget and they haven't", said James Walsh, the Republican chairman of the congressional com-

mittee that provides funds to the city. "Nothing would prevent us from proceeding to take control of the city," he said.

Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, proposed the even more radical solution of returning the 62-square-mile District of Columbia to Maryland, the state from which it was taken early in the 19th century. "When people can find \$100 million at a time missing and say 'Oh, we didn't know that we owed this'... this is a level of disorganisation and confusion that is, I

think, mildly astonishing," he said. Parris Glendening, Maryland's Governor, greeted the idea with horror.

Mr Barry said he was determined to block such congressional action and called a press conference last night at which he planned to announce draconian spending cuts. He was expected to bypass local unions to slash the size and salaries of the city's 45,000-strong workforce, to shorten the school year and drastically to reduce most other services in a city unusually afflicted by drugs, crime and poverty. Mr Barry, who was re-elected

mayor in November after a four-year absence, blamed Sharon Pratt Kelly, his predecessor, for what *The Washington Post* yesterday called the capital's "financial ruin". Mrs Kelly said she found Mr Barry's accusation "extraordinary". She had inherited a \$300 million deficit from him in 1991.

If Mr Barry can save Washington's independence, he might expunge the world's memory of how he brought shame on the city when he was caught smoking cocaine five years ago and swapped his office for a prison cell.

## Australia leads hunt for life in space

BY ANJANA AHUJA

THE search for extra-terrestrial intelligence, abandoned by the United States in 1993, has reappeared in the southern hemisphere in the shape of Project Phoenix. A team of 14 scientists and a 210ft telescope in New South Wales began scouring the heavens yesterday for signs of alien life.

Over the next five months the telescope at Parkes, 185 miles west of Sydney, will examine more than 200 stars similar to the Sun in the Milky Way. These are believed to hold the best hope of having planetary systems like ours. The £4.7 million experiment is funded by private donors including Bill Hewlett, David Packard and Arthur C. Clarke.

Equipment linked to the telescope is capable of scanning two billion frequencies, 28 million of them at any one time. The search area will include Alpha Centauri, which at 4.25 light years away is the star nearest to the solar system. That means radio and television signals transmitted today would reach Alpha Centauri at the turn of the century and any reply would reach Earth in nine years' time.

During the five-month experiment the telescope will scan stars as far away as 150 light years for signs of intelligent life: any such signals would be likely to be highly regular radio pulses that could come only from controlled transmitters. Computers will screen out the background radiation naturally emitted by stars and the more destructive interference caused by Earth-based phenomena such as mobile telephones and local radio stations.

The telescope will also take a somewhat optimistic glance at the heart of the Milky Way, stars that are 25,000 light years away, although experts admit that it would take a rather advanced civilisation to have manoeuvred an appropriate transmitter into place there.

After the screening-out, any remaining radio signals would precipitate immediate action and other telescopes around the world would swing into action. After verification by astronomers, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would be given the information.

## LA police 'swam at home of Simpson'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD and New York's book publishing giants threatened to overwhelm the search for truth in Judge Lance Ito's crowded courtroom yesterday.

As Ronald Shipp, a bit-part film actor and retired police officer, resumed giving evidence in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the Los Angeles Police Department was reeling from the embarrassment of Mr Shipp's earlier descriptions of impromptu swimming and tennis parties hosted by Mr Simpson for droves of on-duty policemen in the early 1980s.

In the meantime, Mr Simpson's jailhouse memoirs rose to the top of *The Wall Street Journal's* bestseller list.

In a case where the defendant starred in slapstick cops and robbers comedies, it is perhaps appropriate that a former friend of his should describe scenes straight out of the *Police Academy* series while giving evidence for the prosecution. But Mr Shipp, who once taught at the Los Angeles police academy and now supplements his pension by playing policemen in low-budget films, has managed to blur fact and fantasy even by the surreal standards of the Simpson trial.

"How many other officers would you say you took to [Mr Simpson's] house on [Rockingham Avenue]?" Mr Shipp was asked when first questioned by the prosecution. "Wow," he replied. "I'd have to say approximately 40 guys, maybe."

The prosecution team is expected to store up such vignettes of police officers as Simpson guests to discredit defence theories that the police helped to frame their client for the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, to which Mr Simpson has pleaded not guilty.

In the meantime, the police have begun an inquiry. Yesterday Daryl Gates, the former police chief, called the kind of fraternising with local celebrities described by Mr Shipp "highly improper": another retired former senior officer said: "If I had known about it, we would have taken some disciplinary action."

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## Politicians at risk when blame for disaster is no longer laid at God's door

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

NATURAL disasters, once blamed on a vengeful God, are becoming an excuse for citizens to attack their apparently impotent leaders. The Dutch, the Germans, even the Japanese, seem to be as much at odds with their governments as with the raging elements that have reduced buildings to rubble and sent brown floodwaters surging into homes.

There has always been some sort of link: the Lisbon earthquake of 1755, as Voltaire reminds us, rocked the monarchy as well as the city.

But the transfer of blame, the demand that government should act efficiently and show repentance, that is new.

There is plenty of money available. Annemarie Jouritima, the Dutch Minister of Waterways and Transport, said in a statement that generated amazement and some scepticism among her countrymen. If the money is available now, why not a year ago, after the last flood? Unlike the floods of 1993, Dutch politicians in gumboots are everywhere. "A rain of ministers has fallen on the polder lands," a sardonic politician from the Right-liberal opposition VVD Party, said.

"This is a new kind of catastrophe-tourism."

The reason for the high political profile is clear enough: the Dutch Government, unlike the Belgian, has undertaken very little since the 1993 floods. That is partly the fault of the environmental groups which want to preserve the ageing dykes and prevent ugly but more effective modern defences. But largely the politicians seemed to believe that there was plenty of time available. Their desire to be photographed in wellington boots is a form of belated repentance.

The first response of Dutch politicians, aware of the increasing

anger, has been to try to deflect attention to Germany: it was the Germans' attempts to shorten the Rhine and to corset it in concrete that triggered the Dutch crisis. In The Netherlands, despite a general willingness to believe the worst about the Germans, this explanation has carried little weight.

The Germans for their part are also criticising their federal and state governments. One dispute divides north and south: the heavily afflicted state of North Rhine Westphalia, Social Democrat-controlled, is blaming Christian Democrat-controlled Baden-Württemberg for refusing to open upstream

flood meadows to help to control the floods downstream.

The federal Government is also at loggerheads with the regional government over who carries the final responsibility for flood control. But the main problem is a philosophical one. Chopping down rain-absorbing forests, draining land, developing industry on river banks and artificially straightening the course of the Rhine: all these policies have contributed to the intensity of the present flood, and all are the result of a political orientation that places a low priority on nature.

This has prompted some serious

reflection in Germany about the pace and price of progress and about the competence of the political class to steer the country into the next century. The talk is of political short-termism. "Politicians used to be regarded as pilots," a Cologne writer said. "Now they are little more than air stewards, explaining how to inflate your life jacket."

The new mood can also be glimpsed in Japan, after the Kobe earthquake which killed more than 5,000. The first, and enduring Japanese emotion, was *gaman*, which is the virtue of stoicism, of dignity under pressure. But the

Japanese have begun to hit out at their Government. Why were relief supplies so slow in coming? Why were the fire services so poorly equipped? The neglect of services is contrasted with the high efficiency of manufacturing industry. The pomp of the army is compared with the two days it took to organise relief.

The Dutch, Germans, Belgians and French will have dry feet again soon. But the deeper social effects of these natural disasters are likely to linger on, and will have an impact on the political complexion of cultures as diverse as those of Kobe and Nijmegen.

## Muslim militants 'next big threat' says Nato chief

BY ROGER BOYES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISLAMIC fundamentalism poses just as great a threat to the West as communism did, Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, said in a newspaper interview published yesterday.

"Fundamentalism is at least as dangerous as communism was. Please do not underestimate this risk," Mr Claes said in an interview in Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

During a visit to Bonn yesterday, the Secretary-General said that Nato was still willing to give Russia extra privileges within the Partnership for Peace plan despite the sharp Western criticism of the Chechen war.

Mr Claes, who held talks with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said that the Russians had told him earlier this week that they were still interested in signing up for Partnership for Peace as long as it included an accompanying document that guaranteed a "broad and strengthened political dialogue" between Nato and Moscow. The papers were to have been approved last December, but the Chechen war has frozen the process.

Mr Claes clearly hopes that there will be a breakthrough

soon. Diplomats say that a decisive move may be made this weekend at a Munich conference on international security, which will be attended by top-ranking Russians. This is despite the fact that Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, has had his invitation withdrawn because of his role in the Chechnya war.

In principle, Nato was willing to acknowledge that Russia's relationship to the alliance was fundamentally different from the other East and Central Europeans within the Partnership programme. "I don't in fact have a mandate to give [the Russians] an official answer but I could well imagine that we will be ready to take in additional elements," Mr Claes said.

The Russians, he said, would also be well advised to study the Partnership documents more closely and exploit the possibilities contained in the programme. Chechnya, despite the chill it has put on Moscow's relations with the West, does not seem to have sabotaged Nato's plans to extend the alliance, but has rather reinforced the wish of the East Europeans to join Nato at the earliest opportunity. The Russians also seem to

be more enthusiastic. "I believe that the tragedy in Grozny has persuaded the Russians to show public opinion that they belong to the family of democracies," Mr Claes said. "We don't want to isolate Russia."

Herr Kohl, who has been criticised in Bonn for defending his personal relationship with President Yeltsin, plainly agrees. In a joint statement yesterday, the German leader and the Nato chief declared: "Integration and co-operation, above all an intensive partnership with Russia and Ukraine, have to be extended so no lines of division arise in Europe."

Mr Claes emphasised that there was still a long way to go before the alliance could take on new fully-fledged members. At least three issues have to be resolved first. "Can the principle of unanimous voting hold even with 22, 25 or 26 Nato members?" he asked. There was also the problem of whether Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which extended the nuclear guarantee to all Nato members, could remain credible. Nato had also to come to terms with the increased financial costs of extending membership eastwards, he said.

## EU offers entry deal for Cyprus

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS HURD and three fellow foreign ministers from France, Germany and Italy yesterday suggested to Turkey a package deal that could speed up the entry of Cyprus into the European Union while allowing an EU customs union with Turkey to go ahead unhindered by a Greek veto.

At an unprecedented summit in London, the plan proposed by the French, who hold the presidency of the Union,

was put forward as a way of overcoming Turkish objections to Cypriot accession negotiations and of persuading Athens to lift its long-standing block on any closer links between Turkey and the EU. The proposal was put to Murat Karayalcin, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

A customs union that would give Turkey virtually free access to the EU market is all but complete. The five ministers

yesterday discussed the remaining technical difficulties and they will meet again on Monday at a full EU-Turkey Association meeting in Brussels. Under the French proposal, negotiations on Cypriot membership of the EU would begin six months after the end of the inter-governmental conference next year. Greece, which has blocked funds for Turkey, would lift its veto on the customs union.



Cows are taken to safety by a ferry on the River IJssel near Brummen yesterday as the threat of more floods in The Netherlands receded

## Tide turns for Dutch in floods battle

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIJMEGEN

THE Dutch authorities were last night on the verge of winning the fight against the floods, as the dykes along the River Waal remained solid, helped by milder weather and rapidly receding water levels.

Officials last night expressed confidence that the point of the highest danger may have passed, and that the spectre of a flooding catastrophe was receding. The crisis committee, which met all day yesterday, also held out the hope that the 250,000 evacuees may soon be able to return to their homes, as long as the weather remains calm today and tomorrow.

However, officials remained in a cautious mood, saying that a residual risk would remain for some time. There was concern that fast receding

water levels could cause the dykes to implode. But as the overall water level goes down, any damage caused by a collapsed dyke would also diminish.

Yesterday police in Gelderland caught the first looters and threatened to arrest anybody refusing to follow the mandatory evacuation procedures. A man who had come from Rotterdam was arrested for burglary, and the police were looking for a gang who posed as officials, handing out false evacuation orders presumably in order to loot some of the houses.

Herman Kok, an expert on dykes and member of the crisis committee, said last night: "Today, for the first

time in days, we had a good day. We had sunshine, no rain in Holland, no wind." He said that there had been no further damage to the dykes.

Ed d'Hondt, the Mayor of Nijmegen, said he hoped that

the 100,000 evacuees in the province could probably return home by the weekend or early next week.

In the southern Dutch province of Limburg, evacuees were already returning to their homes in defiance of the evacuation orders. In Ochten, on the north bank of the Waal, emergency teams worked all day yesterday, and throughout the previous night, carrying out repairs of

a damaged dyke, that could have caused the flooding of a large region. The 25,000 inhabitants of the nearby town of Tiel were evacuated yesterday morning as a precautionary measure.

Flooding in Europe has so far resulted in 26 deaths.

mainly in France. In The Netherlands two women drowned in the Waal. In Germany, France and Belgium the water levels were also receding yesterday.

Queen Beatrix yesterday visited Gelderland and talked to some of the evacuated families.

Paris: Flood damage to a key foundry owned by Peugeot-Citroën has brought the French car manufacturer's assembly operations to a halt, affecting about 50,000 workers, company officials said yesterday. The foundry, at Charleville near the Belgian border, shut down on Monday night after the Meuse river overran its banks. (Reuters)

Philip Howard, page 16  
Letters, page 17



North-west Frontier: guiding logs down the river

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## Yeltsin 'planning purge of hardliners' over Chechnia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is reportedly planning to sack five key ministers from his Cabinet, in a purge of hardliners responsible for the debacle of Russia's military campaign in Chechnia.

According to the Russian newspaper *Izvestia*, the Russian leader is expected in the coming days to announce a radical reshuffle of his Government and commit himself to uphold democratic values and economic reforms. Those facing the sack were named as General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, Sergei Stepashin, the head of the counter-intelligence service (FSK), Nikolai Yegorov, the Nationalities Minister, and two unnamed Deputy Prime Ministers.

Although government officials refused to comment on the planned moves, the prediction has already been partly fulfilled. Mr Yegorov, a hardliner who co-ordinated operations in Chechnia at the beginning of the campaign, has already been relieved of his duties after he was admitted to hospital last week suffering from pneumonia.

General Grachev has also been admitted to hospital for "routine checks". His dismissal had been widely predicted. Although he boasted that he could take the Chechen capital, Grozny, in "two hours" with a regiment of paratroopers, his forces have still failed to dislodge Chechen rebels two months into the campaign.

"The chief scapegoat is General Pavel Grachev," reported *Izvestia*, which cited competent sources in the Kremlin. "He stands accused of two

principal blunders. He persuaded the President that the victory would be swift in Grozny and quelled his sense of danger. He also disorientated the army, which did not realise all the difficulties of the military operation to come."

Mr Stepashin is also accused of incompetence. In November he organised a bungled mission to overthrow the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, which resulted in the death or capture of dozens of Russian soldiers. Since the military campaign began his agents have been singularly ineffective in hampering the operations of the Chechen rebels and of installing a pro-Russian Chechen regime.

Although General Grachev and Mr Stepashin have served President Yeltsin loyally, they have become vulnerable since they disengaged from day-to-day handling of the Chechen operation. Yesterday General Anatoli Kulikov, the head of Interior Ministry troops and the new overall commander of Russian forces in Chechnia,

predicted that the conflict would become a small, localised and partisan war that would not spread to the rest of the Caucasus.

Certainly if the dismissals are confirmed it would take some of the domestic and international pressure off the Kremlin. It could also signal that President Yeltsin is finally prepared to make a break with hardliners in his Cabinet and try to mend his relations with the more centrist and democratic forces.

The sackings are supposed to take place in the coming days, before a keynote state of the union address to both houses of the Russian parliament in the middle of this month.

According to several reports, the Russian leader is expected to use the occasion to reinforce his commitment to economic reforms in the country and to confirm that planned elections for parliament later this year and the presidency next year will take place. Mr Yeltsin is at an all-time low in opinion polls.



Stepashin: bungled mission to Grozny



Grachev: made two principal blunders

## Russian MP shot dead by mafia

BY RICHARD BEESTON

A RUSSIAN MP who last year rose to prominence after shooting dead a suspected gangster, was yesterday discovered dead, after being kidnapped by the Moscow mafia.

Police said they had identified the handcluffed body of Sergei Skorochkin in a forest just south of Moscow. He had been killed by a single shot to the back head after being abducted by four masked gunmen posing as police officers at a café near his hometown of Zaraysk.

The murder, the third of a member of the Duma, Russia's Lower House of parliament, in less than a year, is bound to renew calls for a fresh campaign by the authorities, who have been losing a prolonged battle against organised crime. Last April, Andrei Aizderdzis, another deputy, was shot dead by a contract killer outside his apartment in a Moscow suburb. In November, Valentin Martemyanov became the second victim from parliament when he died of severe head injuries after he was beaten up.

The death of Mr Skorochkin will provoke outrage in parliament. Last May the young parliamentarian and businessman killed a Georgian gangster and accidentally shot dead a woman passerby in a dispute over protection money. The deputy, aged 34, claimed he had acted in self-defence after a local gang repeatedly tried to extort money from him.

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# The oldest railway child

Child star Jenny Agutter tells Julia Llewellyn Smith how she has spent 25 years trying to grow up after *The Railway Children*

As Jenny Agutter trips through the labyrinthine corridors of the Barbican, tea ladies do a double take, scene shifters step respectfully aside and tourists nudge each other and mutter: "That's Roberta from *The Railway Children*."

It matters not a jot that Roberta was a teenager in a flouncy Edwardian pinny and red flannel knickers, while this woman is an X-ray-thin, 42-year-old in a red, 1980s power suit. Agutter could become Chancellor of the Exchequer, solve the problem of world famine and swim the Channel with one arm tied behind her back, but to the public she will always be dew-eyed Bobby, skipping across the Yorkshire Dales to wave at the passing steam trains.

Agutter was 17 and straight out of school when she was offered the role of Roberta. It led to instant stardom and comparisons with the young Katharine Hepburn. She could not have known that it would eclipse everything else she would do. She took her top off in *An American Werewolf in London*, had a string of leading roles at the RSC and was a short-skirted, space cadet in *Logan's Run* but still she could not shake off the teenage tag.

Now, 25 years later, she can be seen on this Sunday in BBC1's latest costume drama *The Buccaneers*, playing an ageing mistress overshadowed by a group of young, American girls. Next week she is appearing in *September*, a two-part drama on Sky, as the long-suffering wife of a Falklands veteran. She is currently playing the Princess of France in the RSC production of *Love's Labour's Lost*.

But when I mention the dreaded R word, Agutter's expression barely changes. "The *Railway Children* is a wonderful film and I'm proud to be a part of it," she says seriously. "It's about a lost world of innocence and people are very generous about it. The public tend to associate me with that and to think that I'm very nice, when actually I'm not. But better nice than nasty, I suppose."

Only much later, as she sips a hot chocolate in the Barbican canteen, does she admit that early fame had its disadvantages. Her father was in the army and she had a nomadic childhood in the colonies, until the age of 11 ("I looked eight") when she was sent to boarding school in Surrey. Almost immediately she was plucked from her ballet class,



Jenny Agutter: "Motherhood changes you; emotionally things are much closer to the surface and you can't squash things like nerves"

to star in *East of Sudan* with Anthony Quayle. "At that age acting seemed to me to be quite frivolous, there was a lot of travelling and this family atmosphere on set. It was like a game."

"But when I left school I had no credentials, no real theatrical education. *The Railway Children* had put me in a position to be recognised, so I had a lot to live up to but I knew nothing. By the time I was 20, I was playing Miranda at the National in a production directed by Sir Peter Hall, with John Gielgud and Cyril Cusack and I was totally in awe of them. I hardly knew what an iambic pentameter was and I just didn't have what it took. It wasn't an easy time."

She escaped to Los Angeles to launch what was to be a patchy career in the movies. There was Nic Roeg's *Walkabout* and Sidney Lumet's *Equus*, but there were also some true stinkers such as *Child's Play II*, the film watched by Jon Thompson and Robert Venables, the two children convicted of murdering James Bulger. Agutter's reticent nose crinkles at the memory. "It wasn't frightening, it was boring. I'm not keen on that genre of film. It's not worth the risk

if it goes badly." Such risks had to be taken, however, if the rent was to be paid.

"I was playing ingénues," says Agutter. "I was always a young woman on some man's arm somewhere. I've moved on from that now." Moved on to what? She giggles nervously.

"Well, I think to a mature woman." Agutter is talking professionally, but she could also mean personally. Until recently, she was resolutely single and friends admitted to being surprised when she suddenly married the Swiss hotelier Johan Thom four years ago. Shortly afterwards, their son, Jonathan, was born.

Agutter, by then resigned to a spinster's life in California, was surprised too. "I very much established myself independently," she says quickly in her slightly edgy way. "When you are single everything is about your reality. When you are with someone else you realise that two different interpreta-

tions can both be entirely valid." Compromises had to be made. Agutter still has a house in LA, but, thanks to Jonathan, is rooted more or less permanently in London, where schools are better and her parents are nearby.

"I think it is the most time I have ever spent in the same place," she says, smiling.

Her own experience mirrors uncannily the themes of *Love's Labour's Lost*, which she outlines with breathless enthusiasm. "The characters are playing with their lives: with ideas, court-

ship and language. But as the play goes on you realise that if they don't get on with it they are going to miss the boat. Life deals you extraordinary blows out of nowhere, so you must take it seriously and enjoy what you are given. This production is set in 1914 and at the end the men are called up to war."

This is Agutter's first appearance on the British stage in six years and she confesses to having been physi-

cally sick before the previous evening's press show. "Motherhood changes you; emotionally things are much closer to the surface and you can't squash things like nerves, so you turn green and giddy, which doesn't always help." Perhaps this explains that morning's unenthusiastic reviews, which she claims not to have seen yet.

In any case, perhaps she would not mind so much these days. "My career has had all sorts of twists and turns and I'm enjoying the present. I'm not obsessed with the importance of a role, the visibility of a film. I'm much happier with character parts than I was when I was always looking for the main chance."

If Agutter does not exactly radiate joy (and her English charm is largely due to her self-confessed reticence), she is certainly content with her celebrity "b-list" status. "I must say there have been so many surprises in my life that in a way I don't even like to know how the end of the week's going to turn out. I enjoy seeing what will come up, it's like playing with a rather bizarre pack of cards. I like the combination of the insecurity of work and the continuity of the family."

Why should only the young have fun?

## The grannies' grand tour

Forget *Thelma and Louise*. The film based on the two-and-a-half-year spree of Winifred Bristow and Joan Payne. Britain's most wanted pensioners, who rebelled against their family's expectations and careered off round the British Isles, staying in rented cottages and cosy hotels on the proceeds of an alleged con woman called Mrs Dodge, is the one I want to watch.

Winnie and Joan are a class act to shame *Supergran*, the now extinct TV wonder-woman of a certain age, who beat up small boys to steal their sweets and roared through red traffic lights on her Yamaha, or even the Stephanie Cole's viper-tongued Diana, dragon-in-chief at the Bayview retirement home in *Waiting for God*.

They provide reassurance that even if one day, like Joan, we have trouble with our feet, we can out-run our dogooding families and defeat the sun efforts of two police forces in search of the good times.

Currently holed up in a rented Suffolk cottage, the ladies are wisely communicating

with journalists and the police only via their letterbox, lest they be forced to face a fate worse than death and end up back with their relatives in East Grinstead. In thousands of rose-walpapered bedrooms up and down the country, their peers must be enviously contemplating Winnie and Joan's tales of going up Ben Nevis in a chair lift, catching ferries to Ireland and tiptoeing illicitly in hotel bars from Folkestone to Fort William.

Of course, it would be nice if one could spring the bounds of convention with the help of a suspected fraudster. But when the police solemnly declared that the trio's escapade had been funded by duping "hoteliers, bank managers and estate agents", even the most crocodile of my tears refused to flow.

Modernity is far more prudish than times past when it comes to allowing the old their due share of excitement. The Old Testament offers us the tale of Abraham's wife Sarah, who bore Isaac when she was 90. Shakespeare yields Juliet's spirited nanny, with her lip-smacking delight in the pleasures of the flesh and Congreve's Lady Wishfort was unashamedly concupiscent despite looking like "an old peeled wall".

Yet for some unfathomable reason, the adjective most commonly applied to old ladies is

"sweet", rarely true and the last way most of them would consider themselves. We, their offspring and grandchildren, thrust good behaviour on them, offering them the tamest of treats: U-certificate films and respectable restaurants.

We expect them to be much better behaved, predictable and generally goody-two-shoes than we are ourselves. In fact, the days of dotage, when your family is grown and there is no more point in worrying about how that 25-year investment will mature, are the ideal time to start behaving recklessly.

Just at this juncture, we deny the elderly one of the most fundamental human pleasures — the right to do something completely out of character once in a while — by taking



ANNE MCELVOY

any aberration from their usual docile behaviour as a sign of decline rather than a glorious freedom. Winnie was quite right to vent her annoyance on local gossips who are claiming that she was under Mrs Dodge's "evil spell" and on her sister Betty who utters that they have "been very foolish". There must be nothing worse than making an all-or-nothing decision to change your life and then having everyone around you put it down to your being brain-washed or demented.

The young, for all their posturing, are terribly easy to shock. My own mother, being escorted towards a sedate dinner on her last visit to London, stopped short outside the door of a Soho nightclub and ventured that she would love to go somewhere really *lounge* and get properly drunk "you know, so that I couldn't see things straight". Coming from a woman whose excesses stop at two glasses of wine, this struck me as bizarre. Thinking about it afterwards, I realised that what had jolted me was the very thought that her blameless retired life in the country hid indecent urges like going on a bender in the worst bars in the capital. I was being far more staid than she.

Behind the comedy of Winnie and Joan lies the more poignant tale of elderly Everywoman wanting, as Joan said, "to run our own lives" and damned if they are going to count out the rest of their days in knit-one-purl-twoes. We can't all be rescued by a dodgy stranger in a Volvo with a flexible approach to banking, but we can all dream.

If no one takes responsibility for the painting of the Forth Rail Bridge, says Magnus Linklater, it may be declared unsafe and closed to trains

## Are we letting Britain's greatest bridge rot?

Thundering at speed across the Forth Rail Bridge was one of the only compensations for the wretched train journey that took me back to my prep school near Edinburgh at the beginning of every term. The huge girders flashing past, the rumbling of steel, and the dark water far below was enough to take the mind off the grisly prospect for a few dramatic minutes.

We used to play a dangerous but exciting game. If you lent out of the window far enough and hurled an old penny with sufficient force at one of the rounded towers, you could strike just the right angle for it to bounce back and hit the end of the train as it snaked past. I think only one of us ever managed to do this, but it was worth the expenditure.

My memories of the bridge in those days are coloured deep red — the red oxide with which the bridge was regularly painted to protect it from the sea air and, as Tam Dalyell, MP, reminded us last week, the attentions of the seagulls — he used a cruder term. It is the only bridge in the world whose maintenance has given us a universal slogan: painting the Forth Bridge is a never-ending process — once you have

finished, it's time to start again. I had not stopped to think why that should be the case until I went back this week to inspect the bridge at close quarters.

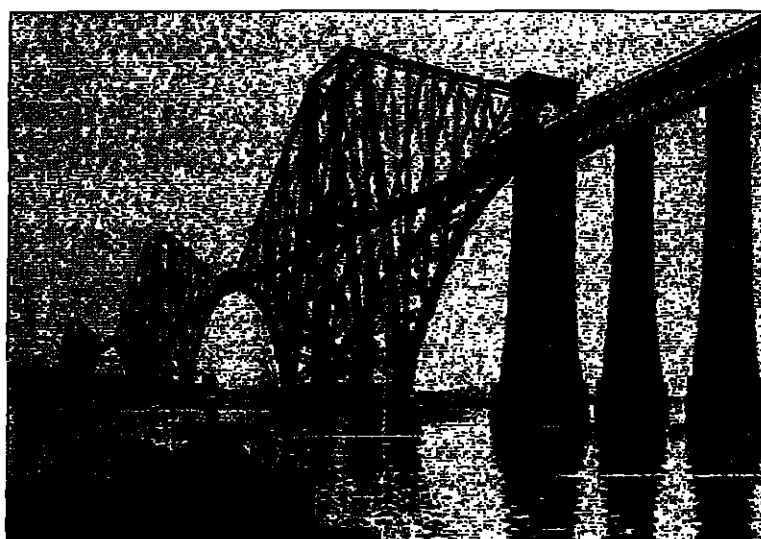
Never has a myth been more rudely shaken. Those majestic pillars that extraordinary lattice work, the massive rivets of what was once called "the first engineering wonder of the world" are no longer dark red. Close to, they look as if they have some terrible skin disease. The paint has flaked away, revealing patches of scabrous black — whole areas have lost their surface protection altogether. It has peeled off, bubbled up, corroded, gone. Patches where some painting has been done only highlight the terrible contrast between now and what it once was. A structure recognised the world over for its extraordinary design and Victorian solidity is rapidly becoming a blot on the landscape.

I inspected it through the binoculars of a man who knows it better than most.

Until John Watson retired last year, he sailed back and forth under the bridge in his passenger ship, *Maid of the Forth*, three times every working day during the season. He is appalled at the state the bridge has got into, and has begun a campaign to have something done about it.

Mr Watson's concern is more than just the appearance of the bridge. He is worried that one day it will be declared unsafe, and closed to trains. He is depressed by how little attention he has received. "If this had been an art gallery," he observes, "everyone would be up in arms."

Now, however, he does have some support, from the redoubtable Mr Dalyell. But he is still concerned that neither the Scottish Office nor Railtrack, which has taken responsibility for the bridge, are aware of the



THE FORTH BRIDGE

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The structure whose maintenance has given us a universal slogan

scale of the work necessary. The fact is that the bridge has not been continuously painted for more than 20 years. It was in 1974 that new health and safety regulations

ruled that the old method of painting — workers were slung on wires, lowering themselves up and down the girders to apply a new coat — was no longer permissible.

On the morning I went there, a glorious sunny day, I saw no activity of any kind, though there is a spider's web of scaffolding at the north end of the bridge. There is an average of only 90 days in the year when the

"That was the beginning of the end," says Mr Watson. "From that point on, painting virtually stopped."

The alternative method — erecting scaffolding round the superstructure — is not only very expensive but also very slow. In fact, only small parts of the bridge have been painted at all using this approach. Under the old system the painting was completed in four to six years; under the new one it has never been completed. Mr Watson's own estimate is that at the present rate it would take some 40 years and cost £100 million. That is, if it is done at all.

As Mr Watson, who has been in boats of one kind or another all his life, points out mildly: "The reason you paint steel is to prevent it corroding. Once corrosion has started and rust appears you are finished. A ship made of steel has a natural life of 30 years."

weather allows painting to take place. This year it will be 89.

But it is cost that is the real factor now. Railtrack says it will do the minimum necessary to keep the bridge structurally sound — costing around £500,000 a year — but that does not include painting which, it claims, is a cosmetic job. There is, it insists, no safety risk whatsoever.

It is an odd approach to take. With privatisation in prospect one might have thought that Railtrack would be adding the Forth Bridge to its long list of operations for which it requires a handsome subsidy and making a major fuss about it. It does not take an expert to realise that today's cosmetic problem is tomorrow's potential disaster.

As Mr Watson, who has been in boats of one kind or another all his life, points out mildly: "The reason you paint steel is to prevent it corroding. Once corrosion has started and rust appears you are finished. A ship made of steel has a natural life of 30 years."

Why should a bridge which is not being properly painted be any different?

He points out that just down the Firth from the bridge there is a pier with steel supports that has just been declared unsafe for walking on. "How long before they say the same about the Forth Bridge?"

Given that when work slowed down back in the early 1970s, there were some parts of the bridge which had not been painted for five years, that means they have been exposed without protection for 25 years. That is getting very close to Mr Watson's 30-year period. Given that Railtrack cannot afford to do the job properly, and the Scottish Office is standing back, who is going to take some action and when? Is there a possibility that in the years ahead a structural engineer will peer into one of those magnificent steel pillars and declare it unsound and unsafe?

Mr Dalyell has called for millennium funding to give it a proper lick of paint. But that is not the kind of repair job the fund was set up for, and is a short-term solution only. Surely we cannot allow this extraordinary monument to Britain's engineering skills to rust away. Or can we?

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# How Major raised the Irish stakes

Conor Cruise O'Brien on the folly of the 'peace process'

The great paradox is that the pursuit of "the peace process" is bound to endanger the double ceasefire. This is necessarily so, because the ceasefires rest on mutually incompatible assumptions, and any proposed "framework for peace" is bound to undermine one of these assumptions or both.

The IRA assumption is that its ceasefire will be rewarded by tangible progress towards what have always been its objectives: Brits out, Northern Ireland to be incorporated into a 32-county Irish state. The loyalist assumption is that the British Government accepts that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom: "the Union is safe" was the slogan reiterated during the announcement of the loyalist ceasefire.

The leaked "framework" document tends to undermine the loyalist ceasefire. Its repercussions are likely to undermine the IRA ceasefire also. The leak in itself is not all that important; all it does is precipitate the Unionist fury that would have followed publication of the document in any case. Mr Major's statement did nothing to ally Unionist fears. To do that, he would have had to deny that the draft document contains provision for "a powerful new North-South authority over Ulster with powers to deal directly with Brussels". His failure to deny that confirmed the fears he was trying to allay.

The inclusion of that formula is a major victory for the diplomacy of the Dublin Government, masterminded as always by John Hume. Bringing Brussels into the picture is a special victory for Irish nationalism. Unionists know that the Northern Ireland received in the European Union is the soft-spoken version of John Hume's Irish nationalism. The European Parliament, after all, has nominated Hume for the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr Hume's opponents, the Unionists, are made to look like little men, stuck with regressive tribal resentments from which they have to be rescued against their will.

John Hume likes to call himself a "post-nationalist". Eurocrats, it seems, believe that one. No one in Ireland does. All nationalists respect Mr Hume as the most persuasive champion of their cause. Unionists abhor him accordingly. Powers to deal directly with a Brussels guided by John Hume looks to Unionists like the end of the Northern Ireland they cherish. They will go to sleep in the EU and wake up in a united Ireland.

That is, they would if this framework were ever to be realised, which of course it won't be. For it will have to be submitted for approval to the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland, as Mr Major has promised, and naturally the Unionists will reject it.

So what have the Unionists to worry about if it isn't going to happen? What worries them is the implication about what Britain would like to happen:

the detachment of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom. Second, the Unionists know how their own rejection of these ideas will be made to appear, internationally. They will be depicted in both Europe and America as archaic bigots obstructing the peace. And there will be insistent demands for that obstruction to be removed. This is why they regard such a document as a threat, even if, for the moment, their consent is required before its proposals can be implemented.

No doubt, in allowing officials to agree to this document, John Major and his colleagues saw its wording as helping to save the IRA ceasefire. And no doubt it does have this effect, for the moment. Certainly, Gerry Adams is very pleased with what has been leaked, and with its deliciously infuriating effect on the Unionists.

For this fury opens up intriguing possibilities for the IRA. What if the loyalist paramilitaries were to resort to violence again, having concluded that their assumption that the Union is safe was mistaken? The Unionists would then be cast as the men of violence, sole enemies of the peace. And might not the IRA — after an appropriate period of passivity to earn some respectability — then be able to return to the fray, in a "purely defensive" role, fighting the barbarous Protestants? In those circumstances, might not the British Army be neutral, while the IRA could expect at least some help from the Republic? Tempting possibilities there.

But if the IRA is delighted by the framework document now, how will it react when the Unionists reject its proposals and the British Government acquiesces in their decision? Will it not then appear in the light of a blatant piece of British perfidy, offering the nationalists the shadow of concession while the Unionists retain the substance of their veto? There are strong arguments here for those who will argue at the IRA convention next month for a resumption of "the armed struggle". Those arguments may not succeed, but if they fail, it will be for reasons internal to the IRA, and not because of this document's hollow blandishments.

It may be that the experience of this particular piece of frameworking will disillusion and disgust both Governments with the frameworking process in general. If so, so much the better. British efforts to woo the nationalists, and then to placate Unionists over the progress of that wooing, are only adding a further factor of instability to a situation which is already inherently unstable. There is no real peace process going on. There is just the fact of a frighteningly fragile double ceasefire, based on contradictory assumptions. And the more a busy pretence of peace brokering is kept up, the sharper and more dangerous the contradictions become.



## Their striking obstinacy

Upholding a principle can be a waste of years — but it has a certain magnificence

A story — it could easily have been missed, or indeed never got into a newspaper at all — stopped me with the marmalade-spoon halfway to my toast. The headline read: "Pickets abandon strike after eight years." Clear enough, I thought, and read on. It took hardly a paragraph for me to abandon the toast and indeed the coffee. For the headline had said nothing but the truth: a picket-line (the very words sound as if they are coming from the 11th century) had been set up by strikers on July 2, 1986, and was manned until December 31, 1994, almost exactly to the day eight-and-a-half years.

Let us stop wondering (there will be plenty of time to wonder, I assure you), and turn to the facts. These begin on the date specified, at a small engineering plant named Keeton & Sons, in Sheffield; this was run and owned by one John Boyle.

The *casus belli* concerned manning levels — another phrase from the Dark Ages — and I must muse for a moment and conjure up those days. Manning levels in the newspaper industry constituted one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated. Where three operatives (at most) were needed, the payroll insisted on anything up to ten. Many never went near the place, their wages being delivered to them at home, and anyway there was no room for the phantom operatives: towards the end they were demanding and getting paid in the names of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. So scandalous was this business among the printing workers, and so impotent to end it were the owners (because, of course, any movement towards sanity and honesty was instantly stymied by the mere threat of stopping the presses), that it was no exaggeration to say that the printers owned the industry. As you shall hear.

One day, when I was coming into the office — then in Gray's Inn Road — a senior member of the board saw me in the hall, buttonhole me and said: "Keep still and just turn your head to the right"; I did so, and my companion said "Do you see that man standing just by the hall desk?" Joining in the conspiratorial tone, I lowered my voice and said: "Why — who is he?" "Never mind who he is" was the answer, "but that man has, in only one year, cost this company single-handed not less than fifty million pounds."

He was, of course, the union boss, and that was, of course, before the Murdoch Revolution. But that was not the only revolution we went through, and of course the Thatcher one was far greater. Which brings me back, not before time, to the matter in hand.

John Boyle, a.k.a. Keeton & Sons, was embroiled in an argument over manning levels. After the then usual weary arguments (these could go on for weeks, even months) Keeton and the union had settled into an uneasy peace. The union had agreed that the workers would operate more than one machine, and the management must have thought that the struggle was over.

But it wasn't. For apparently, there was no agreement on the question of short time. Short time meant that there was not enough work for all hands; the union argued that those who had work to do should share it out among those who had little or none. But that meant, said the shop steward, that the agreement as to workers using more than one machine would have to be suspended until good times came back.

No such thing, said management: if there was not enough work on hand to keep the wheels turning, men must be laid off. They were; and those who were still employed were told to start their machines.

A ballot was called, and resulted in a two-to-one agreement to strike. Whereupon the boss announced that their striking meant that they had dismissed themselves. Moreover, they would remain dismissed until they would agree with his demands: these were that there would be no union activity, that all those rehired would be equal to any newly-hireds, and that their pay would be docked by £1 an hour.

The siege began. All the hands rejected such ignominious terms, an entirely new workforce was hired by Keeton (no doubt these were booed and jeered at as "scabs" when they entered the shameful premises) and

the story of "The Keetons Thirty-Eight" went into legend, and stayed there for eight-and-a-half years.

It is a touching story, is it not? And it is not at all easy to see which scales swing up or down when the weight of argument is thrown in. Of course, it should have been obvious very soon after the gates shut that their cause was lost — at least, in terms of reinstatement, damaging Keeton's profits, getting headlines and vast teams of sympathisers. It was only a small business. Hardly anyone other than those in the same trade in Sheffield knew of its existence, and the news that a very small industrial struggle was going on in a very small place with a very few people concerned was not the stuff to make history.

There were pickets round the clock, in three shifts; inside the factory, work went on, and after a time — I guess a pretty short time — the "scabs" hardly noticed the 38. But the 38 — what did they think, as time went by? No doubt, when asked, they would say: "It's for the principle."

Oh, if I had been there to go down on my knees and beg them, real tears running down my cheeks, to take that word "principle" and tear it into the very smallest pieces imaginable, and then go home, not least because it is warm at home, and it can be very cold indeed if the only heat comes from a makeshift brazier. Ah, you and I have also known people who said "It's for the principle", but have we ever been able to dissuade even one of them to — I must speak bluntly — see sense?

The strikers had something like a mantra; they said: "We had to react, but nobody really thought we'd be sacked for going on strike." No, but when you realised that you *had* been sacked for going on strike, what then?

What then, indeed. Obstinacy and the heart; they do not go together, and nothing will bring them close. Did you know that the strike-pay from

their union's coffers had to stop, by the rules, after one year? (And I dare say that the strike-pay had not been exactly lavish in the first place.)

Mediators, public and secret, worked for a settlement, but what settlement could there be between Yes and No? The working men of Sheffield chipped in, but they, too, could not do much chipping when the currency was the same kind as that of Luther at Worms.

The years went by. Some of the pickets drifted away, perhaps because they realised that they were wasting their lives: some of the older ones now agree that they did waste their lives. There is a *Times* photograph of the scene of the picketing. In the shabby caravan that made do as headquarters, there are two men, middle-aged. Just behind them, there is a board reading: "A.E.U. Official Picket. Please do not cross." There is no great stampede to cross, and there is no crowd carefully ensuring that they do not cross by accident.

Eight-and-a-half years. Young children are growing up; I dare say few will seek the same kind of work that their fathers did. One of the strikers, and only one, gave in and sought work with Keeton, on Keeton's terms. He was, of course, dubbed scab, indeed, double scab, because he was the Keeton shop steward. I dare say that when they heard of his double treachery they chanted — or at least murmured — the other mantra: "One back, all back."

And now it is over, eight-and-a-half years since it began. Some of the observers would be contemptuous. They would call the 38 fools to waste their lives in such absurdity. I don't take that attitude. I cannot quite say why I don't, but there is such tragedy, mixed with heroism in this story, that it holds me strongly. Did my tragic heroes read Shakespeare in the long hours? And if they did, did they get to the lines in *Henry V* which read:

For oaths are straws, men's faiths are water-cakes,  
And holdfast is the only dog, my duck?

Holdfast indeed, as the years went by and their magnificent folly still stood. A waste of lives, yes — no one can deny that. But then, no one can look up at the ramparts and see the watch going back and forth, back and forth, without shedding a tear, because outside the castle — though the watch does not know this — there is nobody left to fight.

Philip Howard



Literature is awash with flood imagery, which represents a fear of primal chaos

The waters were abated from off the mud round the Round Pond yesterday at dawn. So the Jack Russells could skip instead of splash, while their human companion could put one foot in front of the other without sliding and falling on his bottom, turning his blue suit brown. The Canada geese, honking (Francophones, presumably), *Après la pluie, le beau temps*, had stopped sulking like drowned hens and returned to destroying the grass. The Hampshire Avon and the Thames at Maidenhead were still on red flood alert, but the great flood scare of 1995 seemed to be going down.

Flood is the primal nightmare, more frightening than the lesser perils of field and fire to which it is proverbially opposed. For example, fire and water are good servants but bad masters: when fire and water are at war it is fire that always loses. Writers as vivid as Graham Swift in *Waterland*, Dorothy Sayers in *The Nine Tailors* and Dickens-on-Thames have found that nothing beats the angry brown god of a flood for a metaphor at the climax of a story.

The doom-laden monosyllable, with its fluid tritave, is common to all Teutonic languages, and sounds the alarm more harshly than the Latinate deluge or diluvial fancy.

In its various senses of too much water flowing too overwhelmingly for man to control, flood gets into *Beowulf* and other early English texts. Most famously in the Neolithic flood. "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were open. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." That is an archetype in all tongues and nurseries, where Noah's animals going in two by two are the most enduring myth. The present evacuation of the animals from the polders of The Netherlands takes us back to Noah.

With such deep roots in the literature and language, it is not surprising that flood still makes a popular metaphor. After the last great flood scare, the return of the sun brought out the motorists like slugs in a tailback after rain. *The Times* quoted an RAC patrolman: "It was as though the floodgates had been opened." This was an example of the Freudian metaphor, which is not so much mixed as an unconsciously appropriate or inappropriate comparison. Another such watery one occurs in an Open University course: "If, to broaden the canal to take, say, 20 per cent more traffic, it is necessary to halve the dividend, this will gain little favour with shareholders — that is, until such time as a rival appears, and then shareholders may prefer to ditch the canal..."

The mythologies of most ancient peoples have a flood. There are those (who mistake myth for Ceeleax) who believe that the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea and the sudden extinction of Minoan civilisation on Crete were caused by the tidal waves deluged by the eruption of Thera or Santorini. Noah's flood copies closely the far older Babylonian story of Utnapishtim, which also had an ark to preserve the last family, and a raven and a dove sent out to reconnoitre dry land.

The epic of Gilgamesh was taken from or cognate with the Sumerian Noah, called Ziusudra. In Hindu mythology, Vishnu appears as a fish to the first man and warns of the coming flood. In Greek myth, Deucalion is the Noah who is saved from the flood with his wife. They repopulate the earth by throwing male and female stones over their shoulders.

The splash story of a great flood is an archetype, found in every culture, either from traditions of local floods or to explain strange patterns of landscape. Small boys in their first gumboots are still drawn irresistibly to paddle and fall over in puddles; in the sexist way of the world, small girls tend to be more cautious about floods. The headlines and wonderful pictures of men and women from the Low Countries holding the dyke against the eternal flood are the brave old story of civilisation against the chaos of water.

## Rugby blues

JOHN MAJOR and his Government are not alone in trying to smooth over Anglo-Irish relations at the moment. Will Carling, the English rugby team's captain, is making overtures to Mary Robinson, the Irish President, after complaints from Dublin about the behaviour of his team.

The charge is that too many English players were sidestepping about while the Irish national anthem was being played in Dublin before the Five Nations Championship match between Ireland and England.

Members of the Irish Rugby Football Union (which governs the game in both Northern Ireland and the Republic) are aggrieved. Carling has been informed and has apologised. "I have written to Mary Robinson to assure her that no disrespect was ever intended by the English team."

The lads were noticeably livelier than their Irish counterparts as Ireland's "The Soldier's Song" rang out round the stadium two weeks ago. And "God Save the Queen" wasn't played, making it impossible to establish whether

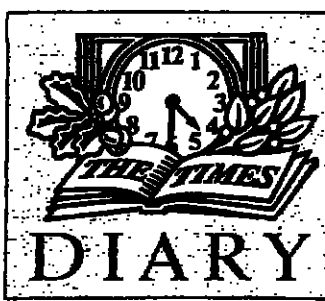
Carling's boys would have been more respectful during theirs.

But, as all commentators pointed out on the day, the conditions were sub-Arctic. "The English team's duty was to keep warm so they had to move about," said one. "The Irish kept still. And they lost." I am confident, however, that this diplomatic incident will ensure rumour backs among the England squad as the *Marseillaise* rings round Twickenham before the French game tomorrow.

### Unfair game

PHEASANTS and partridges are safe from the guns of the Cowdray family. Michael Pearson, the new Lord Cowdray, who inherited Cowdray Park in West Sussex after his father died a fortnight ago, is looking away his rifle. His father was a keen shot, despite having only one arm. Up to four gamekeeping jobs are under threat on the 17,000-acre estate near Midhurst.

The viscount explains his decision in an interview with *The Midhurst and Petworth Observer*: "I am not an objector but I've done a lot of shooting and the high number of birds being shot began to bother me. I decided I didn't want any more." No guns therefore on the bulk of the estate, although there are plans to lease shooting



rights on one or two of its far-flung corners.

● Donald Pleasence, who died yesterday, was nothing if not mercurial. Under the heading "Recreation", his *Who's Who* entry changed from "boats, cars and very bad golf" in the 1960s to "talking too much" in later years. Clearly a man to avoid when it came to the 19th hole.

### Rally ho

BARONESS Denton, the Northern Ireland minister and fearsome rally-driver, is promoting a cause close to her heart: North West 200, the province's annual motorbike race.

She attended the launch of the event this week in Belfast even though her ministerial colleague Michael Ancram normally deals

with sporting affairs. And she took away with her a promotional sticker, for the back windscreens of her ministerial Granada. "Such things aren't normally stuck up in government cars, but in this case I am going to insist," she explained.

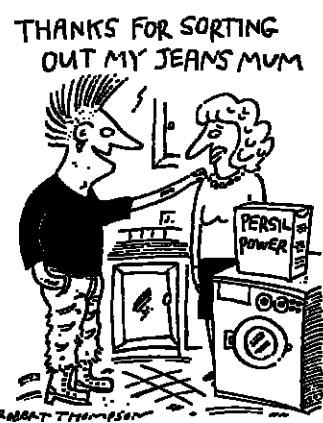
### Baker day?

THE FORMER Home Secretary Kenneth Baker has had his knuckles rapped in a fierce letter from Sir Fergus Montgomery, Conservative MP for Atrincham and Sale. He stands accused of failing to turn out and vote for the Government.

Sir Fergus writes in his capacity as chairman of the House of Commons Selection Committee. He cites Baker's apparent reluctance to vote on Statutory Instruments to amend legislation.

"The whips tell me you didn't appear for the Statutory Instrument," reads the letter. "This is the second time this year... I have great problems getting people onto these Statutory Instruments, because we have the smallest majority that we have had since 1951... I have to tell you that other ex-Cabinet ministers do their stunts... it could cause difficulties for the party."

Baker is bemused, not least because in the same post, he received a second from Sir Fergus asking him to tear it up. "Not



guilty. I've been to two out of last three. I think he must have had someone else in mind." Sadly, Sir Fergus was unavailable yesterday to explain.

● Hugh Grant has put his seal of approval on a new set of Royal Mail stamps which feature smooching couples and cherubs. The floppy-haired actor has agreed to sign 500 first day covers of the so-called love stamps to be launched in March. Proceeds will go to a curiously-named wildlife charity, the Great Ape Escape run by the Born Free Foundation.

P.H.S



England players remain resolutely still during a national anthem

Handwritten text in a box: "155 11/15/95"











# FRED PERRY

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a tennis player in a ready stance on a court. The player is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants, leaning forward with a tennis racket in hand. The background shows a crowd of spectators in bleachers.

Perry was four times married: to the film star Helen Vinson; to the fashion model Sandra Breaux; to Lorraine Pidgeon, sister of the film actor Walter Pidgeon; and to Barbara Friedman, former wife of the Hollywood director Seymour Friedman. She and their daughter and son, surviving him.




## DONALD PLEASENCE

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man playing a cello. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark vest. The background is a textured, stone-like wall. The image is framed by a thick black border.

Davies in *The Caretaker* at the Comedy Theatre, a role which would have exhausted a much younger man. He was planning new projects right to the end, and most recently had been hoping to play King Lear with three of his daughters. He was appointed OBE in 1994.

He is survived by his fourth wife Linda and by five daughters.

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## ON THIS DAY

### February 3 1801

**"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS"**  
 "I have directed the Estimates for the several Branches of the Public Service to be laid before you. Deeply as I lament the continued necessity of adding to the burdens of my people, I am persuaded you will feel with me the importance of providing effectual means for those exertions which are indispensably requisite for the honour and security of the country..."



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ARTS 31-33

Only here for small beer? The life of a pub rocker



SPORT 35-40

French adopt new lines of attack to test England

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
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# THE TIMES

2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 1995



The going rate: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and his team face Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and his aides at their monthly meeting at the Bank yesterday. The base rate was raised half a point.

## Salomon takes \$194m hit over London errors

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

**SALOMON** Brothers, the American securities firm, has discovered that book-keeping errors at its London operations have cost it \$194 million. The losses were uncovered after a detailed 18-month investigation into the firm's ledgers and accounts balances and helped to drag the group down to a loss of \$364 million.

Salomon said a team of 40 executives with help from Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, had been examining the London operation's ledgers since the middle of 1993 and had uncovered thousands of errors on more than 300 internal accounts. The mistakes came to light while the group was overhauling its internal financial systems.

The group stressed however that no fraud had been involved and that none of its clients had lost out financially due to the errors. It has instituted a new system of cross-checking all financial records. "The company knows of no situation where the conditions that led to these charges had an adverse impact on the company's customers," it said in a statement.

The charge comes a year

after Salomon was forced to set aside \$87 million in its 1993 accounts to cover similar errors in its New York operations. In both cases the mistakes stretched as far back as 1989, and in many cases were caused by booming trading volumes which in turn put pressure on settlements staff. A Salomon spokesman said that no action was being taken against any of the employees that made the mistakes, although many of them have already left the company due to natural staff turnover.

In addition, Salomon has been forced to make a further \$23 million charge after a detailed review of its exposure to interest-rate swaps and similar derivative products. The company has identified problems in the recording of its swaps exposure dating as far back as 1985 and has taken charges totalling \$100 million since 1992 to offset losses that have built up unnoticed on its trading positions.

The heavy charges come at a time when Salomon is already suffering from the slump in the bond market and a fall in trading volumes in both London and New York. Salomon yesterday reported a \$122

million net loss for the fourth quarter of last year. This includes both charges but these were offset by \$102 million extraordinary gain on the release of tax provisions.

For the whole of 1994, Salomon lost \$364 million, compared with a net profit of \$827 million in 1993. The firm said that it "will maintain strict control of headcount" in an effort to reduce costs. Salomon insiders said the company is considering a round of redundancies.

Salomon said that its client driven business lost \$110 million in the fourth quarter, while its proprietary trading, where it often makes huge profits, also suffered a \$28 million loss. The firm said however that it had returned to profit in January. "This business always has been cyclical, and we are going through a rough part of the cycle right now," said Robert Baker, the corporate communications director.

As a result of the losses, Salomon was downgraded yesterday by both Moody's and IBCA, the debt rating agencies. This follows a similar downgrade by Standard & Poor's last autumn.

## Costain confirms suspicion of stalker

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

**COSTAIN GROUP**, the embattled builder and coal mine operator, has confirmed City suspicions that it is being stalked by a predator. A rising share price has prompted a formal announcement that takeover talks are taking place.

Costain said that discussions were being held with a number of parties "both in relation to the possible sale of its remaining US coal mining assets and in relation to the Costain Group as a whole".

Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson, this week refused to comment on acquisition plans after rumours that his conglomerate was the potential bidder. However, the favourite to buy Costain outright was P&O, the shipping group that owns the contractor Bovis.

Reports suggested that P&O might be interested in buying the company, although the company would not comment formally. While P&O is not thought to want the coal business, Hanson is still seen as a possible buyer of this.

The news prompted Costain shares, which gained 2 1/2 p. to 22 1/2 p. on Wednesday, to a further 1 1/2 p. rise, to 24 p. yesterday's close, although market speculation is that any bid will be at, or even below, the current price. Costain's market capitalisation stands at £124 million. Costain has not paid a dividend since 1991.

Pennington, page 23

## Building societies hold mortgage rates

By ANNE ASHWORTH AND ERIC REGULY

THE base rate rise should not immediately add to the woes of the millions of home buyers who are now receiving notification of the mortgage rate rises prompted by December's base rate move from 5.75 per cent to 6.25 per cent.

The major building societies said yesterday that they did not intend to increase their mortgage rates for the time being. Some, like the Halifax, the largest mortgage lender, described the base rate rise as "unnecessary", with others being openly critical of the Government's interest rate policy.

The Halifax, which last month announced it was increasing its mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 8.35 per cent, said that it saw no need to raise rates further but that the situation would be kept under review. The society's latest house price survey, due out today, shows prices falling by 0.1 per cent last month.

While acknowledging that the half a per cent rise in base rate put pressure on mortgage rates, the Nationwide, the second-largest society, also said that it had no plans to change its mortgage rate.

This view was echoed by the Abbey National, the building society turned bank, the Woolwich and the Yorkshire. The Northern Rock, which has in the past been quick to move its rates in the wake of base rate rises, is also standing firm.

Lenders can, at present, afford to take no action because their margins on mortgage business remain wide even after yesterday's rate rise.

There is a spread of 1.6 per cent between the Halifax mortgage rate and the base rate, more than twice the average margin of the past 25 years.

John Wrigglesworth, head of strategy at the Bradford & Bingley, said: "With its decision to limit income support on mortgages and two rate rises within the space of eight weeks, the Government seems determined to bash home ownership."

The construction industry was among those that complained the loudest about the interest rate rise. But some retailers said consumer confidence appeared strong enough to ensure continued healthy sales. Matthew Cooper, a sales executive at Stephen James BMW in Enfield, north London, said: "For

people who want to spend large sums of money on a car, half a per cent won't make a difference." He noted that one-quarter of his dealership's yearly allotment of cars had already been sold even though rates had gone up three times since September.

The rate increase was widely condemned by groups associated with the construction and housing industry. The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors said the rise can only hurt a market that already appears to be suffering a setback. The Building Employers Confederation said the new interest rate was "unjustified and damaging to the already faltering recovery in the construction industry".

Engineers angry, page 22

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3034.7	(+17.4)
Yield	4.27%	
FT-SE All share	1487.15	(+8.78)
Nikkei	18904.30	(+185.17)
New York	3851.80	(+4.04)
Dow Jones	678.57	(+0.27)
S&P Composite	678.57	(+0.27)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	97 1/8%	(97 1/8%)
Yield	7.75%	(7.75%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
12-month bill	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5830*	(1.5828)
London	1.5825	(1.5825)
DM	2.4048	(2.4152)
FF	6.3250	(6.3450)
Sfr	2.0402	(2.0402)
Yen	157.41	(155.32)
E Index	79.8	(79.5)
DOLLAR		
London	1.5180*	(1.5183)
DM	5.2630*	(5.2850)
Sfr	1.2848	(1.2848)
Yen	98.48*	(98.20)
E Index	62.6	(62.6)
Tokyo close Yen	98.32	
BRENT 15-DAY (Apr)		
London	\$16.70	(\$16.70)
GOLD		
London close	\$378.05	(\$376.15)
* denotes midday trading price		

## American-style

City regulators are exploring American-style plea bargaining as a way of dealing with the problem of white-collar crime. A more flexible approach to tackling fraud and insider dealing is among proposals being considered by the Securities and Investments Board.

## Bid rush

Wellcome rushed out its 1994 results yesterday as part of its efforts to win a higher bid for the company than the one tabled by Glaxo, the rival pharmaceutical company.

Page 23, Tempus 24

## BT to cut handling fees on calls from North America

By ERIC REGULY

THE transatlantic phone market took another step towards full deregulation yesterday after British Telecom agreed to cut its fees for handling calls placed from North America.

BT said it would gradually move its so-called accounting rates towards their cost base. The rates, a form of interconnection fee, are paid by American and British phone companies to complete calls on each other's networks.

BT said the new levels would be negotiated with AT&T, the largest US overseas phone carrier, which is also cutting its charges for calls from Britain.

In exchange, BT has been authorised by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to lease private phone lines connected to public networks and resell their capacity. The

move will primarily benefit customers of Concert, the joint venture between BT and MCI, the second-largest US overseas phone carrier, which builds private voice and data networks for business customers.

Before yesterday's agreement, Concert customers in the US could make calls only within their private network. Now, for example, they will be able to use the public networks to tap into Concert from their homes.

James Graf, the president of BT North America, said: "This action by the FCC strengthens our ability to offer a seamless global network to multinational customers as opposed to a patchwork of service capabilities."

The Department of Trade and Industry has already cleared AT&T to offer similar services in Britain.

## Study reviews trade publication system

## Stock Exchange 90-minute rule called into question

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A STUDY by the London School of Economics calls into question the London Stock Exchange's 90-minute rule, which delays publication of large share trades.

The research study, which was jointly sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe), was commissioned to evaluate the exchange's current trade publication system. The study comes at a time when transparency issues are of significant concern to both regulators and market participants, and should be of interest to the SIB and the Treasury.

The current rule allowing a 90-minute delay in publishing large trades (above three times normal size) allows market-makers to offset the risk by unwinding any excess inventory before the rest of the



market is aware that the large trade has occurred. Another feature of the current regime is the existence of Inter Dealer Broker (IDB) systems, which allow market-makers to trade with each other in private, via an order driven system.

It has been argued that unless publication is delayed, market-makers will offer poorer prices for large trades, leading to fewer such trades being executed in London. Immediacy ensures that institutional investors can trade in large volumes at good prices, main-

taining the position of the London Stock Exchange as one of the world's leading equity markets. This benefit is argued to justify the rule, even though it places other investors at a disadvantage.

The LSE study, which was based on the analysis of more than 2.4 million trades in 42 stocks between 1992 and 1994, suggests, however, that the benefits of delayed publication are overstated. It says "the current rules are misplaced in delaying the publication of all large trades" and that the transparency regime should be re-evaluated so as to delay only those trades that impose substantial risk on the market-maker concerned.

The study implies that publication should be delayed only for trades much larger than are currently delayed and recommends reducing the length of the delay.

Pennington, page 23

Thomson's

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BT02/95

# SIB looks at plea bargaining for fraud cases

By JON ASHWORTH

CITY regulators are exploring American-style plea bargaining as a way of dealing with white-collar crime. A more flexible approach to tackling fraud and insider dealing is among proposals being considered by the Securities and Investments Board.

The proposals are outlined in the SIB's annual management plan, which sets out the regulator's programme for the coming year. In it, the SIB admits that it is in talks with Treasury and legal experts in an effort to improve ways of dealing with complex fraud. Andrew Large, SIB chairman, said the aim was to "develop and promote improved arrangements for dealing with the reg-

ulatory system, with some cases of market abuse which have hitherto tended to be the preserve of the criminal courts. We are working closely with HM Treasury and the criminal investigators and prosecutors in this complex field". Plea bargaining is one option being considered.

In a second key drive, the SIB is exploring ways of improving the regulatory environment for international investment business. Steps to bolster investor protection and market integrity would underpin the City's status as a world financial centre.

The SIB is trying to be seen as more open and accountable. As the supreme body heading the self-regulatory structure created by the Financial Services Act (1986), its role

spans three main areas — setting standards for firms and regulators, supervising the "frontline" regulators like the new Personal Investment Authority (PIA), and setting the tone on enforcement.

The SIB intends to give special attention to the PIA, which has taken over the task of regulating small firms of financial advisers and life offices. The PIA, which came into existence last summer, has been the target of ongoing criticism, not least from the Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, which opted for direct regulation by the SIB as opposed to the PIA. Mick Newmarch, who resigned as chief executive of the Prudential last month, had been one of its fiercest critics.

Pensions will be another area of intense scrutiny. The SIB accused the pensions industry of widespread mis-selling in a damning report last October, and called for steps to be taken to repair the damage. It is thought that compensation for pensions mis-selling could top £2 billion.

Checks will be made to ensure that new rules on disclosure are being adhered to. Life insurance salesmen and independent financial advisers are obliged to declare how much commission they stand to earn on many insurance and pension-linked products.

Higher staff costs associated with increased supervision and enforcement are expected to push the SIB's budget to £21.7 million, compared

with £20.6 million last year. The SIB expects to spend £11.6 million (£10.5 million) on employees, and £4 million on accommodation.

Separately, Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, has called for an end to the "box ticking" approach to regulation favoured by the SIB. He said: "Ticking boxes doesn't mean that a salesman is either competent or honest. It is time to revisit the way in which regulation works in practice, and to question whether or not all the rules and regulations are effective in promoting high standards."

□ *The SIB Management Plan and Budget 1995/96* is available from SIB, Gaville House, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8RA. Price £10.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Boeing cuts 7,000 jobs as orders fall

BOEING, the plane maker, announced yesterday that it was to sack up to 7,000 workers because of a reduction in orders for its 737 and 767 planes. Last week, Boeing reported a steep decline in fourth quarter profits and admitted that sales had dropped 9 per cent. The company blamed fewer commercial aircraft deliveries and higher spending on research and development. For the full year, Boeing's earnings tumbled 31 per cent and sales fell 14 per cent.

The company said it would reduce production of 737s from an average of 8.5 a month to seven, but would increase production of its 747 jumbo jet from two a month to three. In total, the new cuts will reduce Boeing's output to fewer than 18 planes a month from a peak of 38 in 1991. Almost all of the job cuts will occur at the firm's headquarters in the state of Washington. In 1994, the company eliminated about 9,000 jobs from its payroll.

## Charter in US sell-off

CHARTER, the engineering conglomerate that acquired Esab, the Swedish welding equipment maker last year, has sold its coal mining equipment operations for \$46 million. Marmon Group, a private US engineering company with turnover of \$4 billion, is paying cash for the assets of Anderson Group and National Mine Service Company. The two companies have a book value of \$49.8 million and Jeffrey Herbert, Charter's chief executive, said the company will suffer a goodwill writedown of between \$15 million and \$20 million. *Tempos, page 24*

## Allied Leisure ahead

ALLIED LEISURE, the ten-pin bowling group, made improved pre-tax profits of £773,000 in the 24 weeks to December 4. This compares with £278,000 last time, which included a £406,000 property profit. However, exceptionally fine weather from mid-June to mid-August hit sales and is blamed for a drop in turnover to £9.54 million (£10.1 million). Earnings per share rose to 1.09p (0.34p), but there is again no interim dividend. A £4.5 million sale of two sites to Rank Leisure has completed Allied's night club disposal programme.

## Britannia advances

THE Britannia Building Society increased pre-tax profits to £100.7 million in 1994, from £80.8 million in the previous year, helped by a decline in bad debt provision and an increase in interest income. The society blamed the subdued housing market for a 13 per cent reduction in total mortgage lending to £1.2 billion, although there was a 4.7 per cent increase in the loan book to £8.4 billion. The number of mortgage accounts in arrears fell by 40 per cent. Costs were held for the third consecutive year.

## Bowthorpe buys in US

BOWTHORPE, the UK electronics group, is buying Metrosonics Inc in the US for up to \$15.4 million. The deal depends on Metrosonics' profits before tax and bonuses for the year to January 31 1995 being at least \$1.45 million. Metrosonics is a leader in monitoring noise pollution, indoor air quality, toxic gases and heat stress, and makes instruments for measuring power supplies. Bowthorpe said group trading in the final quarter of 1994 was ahead of expectations but the rate of growth would not be sustained throughout 1995. *Tempos, page 24*

## Engineers say rate rise compounds bad situation

By ERIC REGULY

CIVIL engineers, already gloomy because the traditional year-end surge in business failed to happen, said that yesterday's half-point rise in interest rates can only make a bad situation worse.

A January survey by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors found that invitations to submit tenders for new construction work have fallen off dramatically. John Hackett, the group's Director General, said: "The normal rush of invitations at this time of year, as public bodies seek both to use up current-year budgets and prepare for their new year starting in April, has not materialised."

A narrow majority of the 141 respondents said their work load is less now than it was a year ago.

The engineers put much of the blame on public project spending cuts. Spending by the regional water companies, for example, has declined in the wake of last summer's price review by the water regulator. The most severe case is South West Water, which recently announced it will shed 400 jobs and cut its capital expenditure programme in half.

The interest rate increase is expected to hit the private sector hardest. Jim Turner, spokesman for the federation, said. He said it could take the momentum out of factory, retail and housing construc-

tion. "The question is now: do people think this is as high as interest rates will go," he said. Geoffrey Lister, chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, called the rise "an unwelcome blow to the housing market". He said if other lenders put up mortgage rates, the Bradford & Bingley would do the same.

Sir Brian Hill, president of Higgs & Hill, the construction company, said the federation's concerns were not overblown. "This decision is in direct conflict with the strong warnings the Chancellor has received from the construction industry about the damage that any further rise in interest rates would cause, particularly to the depressed housing market," he said.

On a more positive note, the federation said cost pressures among its respondents were easing. Although costs are still on the rise for most contractors, one third fewer said they were going up faster than a year ago.

There was good news on the supply of labour too. The federation said only 2 per cent of respondents reported any difficulty in obtaining skilled workers.

Mr Hackett said the civil engineering sector had to respond positively to the Government's Private Finance Initiative and that this should become easier with the removal of certain teething problems on the government side.



David Southworth, managing director, right, and John Atkin, finance director, said yesterday that P&P, the computer software and services group, is raising its total dividend to 2.6p (2p) after acquisitions and organic growth helped to secure a 95 per cent surge in profits to £8 million in the year to November 30. The final dividend is 1.65p (1.2p).

## Port expansion planned

By CARL MORTISHED

MERSEYSIDE is set to gain 300 jobs from the expansion of the Port of Liverpool with the development of a warehouse and industrial complex on derelict land near the docks.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, the owner of the port, will today announce plans for a £20 million development of more than 70 acres of land in conjunction with Bootle Maritime City Challenge.

The joint public and private scheme is intended to expand Liverpool's freeport, attract

investment from distribution companies, and to improve the environment in the docks area.

Mersey Docks owns the largest freeport in Britain, occupying 800 acres. However, it said yesterday that overcrowding was putting pressure on port facilities.

The company hopes to obtain planning permission by the end of the year and intends to build on a speculative basis, with construction of the first warehouse in 1996.

Ken Wharton, Mersey

Docks marketing director and a board member of Bootle Maritime City Challenge, said that the proposals would create jobs in the community and regenerate the area.

Mr Wharton added: "The objective is to get back the distribution industry. We want to get a total logistics chain coming through the port and across to the Channel Tunnel and into Europe."

Mersey Docks will be applying for funds from the City Challenge scheme and from Europe.

## Warburg voted tops again

By OUR CITY STAFF

SG WARBURG, the securities house, has been voted top for research by Britain's major companies for the fourth year in row. It also tops the tables as best stockbroker for corporate finance advice in relation to equity markets, narrowly beating Cazenove, and best merchant bank for corporate finance expertise.

Kleinwort Benson rises from third to second place for quality of research in the Annual Broker Survey, conducted by Consensus Research International and published in *Securities & Investment Review*. Barclays de Zoete Wedd rises from seventh to third place, pipping James Capel, down from second to fourth in its first year outside the top two since 1985. NatWest Securities was ranked fifth for research, followed by Smith New Court, UBS, Hoare Govett and Goldman Sachs.

David Lang, of Henderson Crosthwaite, was voted top food manufacturing analyst for the ninth year, sharing his place with Warburg's Mark Duffy. Charles Lambert, of Smith New Court, is the top-rated chemicals analyst for the sixth year. BZW's Philip Gibbs leads for two sectors, banks and other financials.

## BSkyB and Reuters in TV news deal

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

REUTERS, the international news and information group, and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, are to develop a television news service in the UK.

Under a deal announced yesterday, Reuters will supply news footage, technical resources and satellite delivery to Sky News, BSkyB's 24-hour news channel.

Reuters, which has 70 television bureaux throughout the world, will also produce tailor-made programmes for the satellite broadcaster, in which News International (parent

company of *The Times*) is a major shareholder.

The arrangement is likely to result in substantial savings to Sky News, which costs about £30 million a year to run but which attracts peak audiences of just 110,000. Sky will retain overall editorial control and continue to use its existing reporters. Some job losses are likely, however, particularly among technicians.

It is understood that by expanding its network of international correspondents through the deal, Sky News is preparing a platform from

which to mount a challenge to Independent Television News, which supplies news programmes to ITV and Channel 4. It is thought to be particularly interested in bidding to supply news to Channel 4.

The agreement will cement the position of Reuters as a leading force in television news services. It follows a similar deal in the US ten days ago between Reuters and Fox Television, the American film and television group controlled by The News Corporation, the parent of News International. It could also

signal a further tie-up between Reuters and News Corp's television station in Asia, Star TV. Although negotiations have not yet begun, it is understood that Sky News could provide a service to Star TV in an arrangement involving Reuters.

Last year, BSkyB rebuffed a bid from ITN, which wanted to supply a full 24-hour service to Sky News.

Under the terms of the arrangement, the partnership will syndicate Sky News material, supplied by Reuters, around the world.

## Rugby star joins quest for new business leaders

## Branson is boardrooms' hero

By JON ASHWORTH

RICHARD BRANSON is Britain's most admired business leader, a survey of top boardroom directors has found, but the UK lags well behind America when it comes to business talent.

Mr Branson is admired for his strong vision and his ability to motivate others, according to a poll conducted by MORI for KPMG, the accountancy firm. He narrowly pips Lord Hanson, admired for his track record and ability to get results, and Sir John Harvey-Jones, who is cited for his communication skills and inspirational qualities.

Other role models include Lord Weinstock, Sir Richard Greenbury, Lord Sheppard of Digdore and Sir Colin Marshall. From outside business, Baroness Thatcher, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose and rugby's Will Carling were thought most likely to make good captains of industry.

Nearly two-thirds of the 700 main board directors who took part in the survey believe that there is a shortage of good business talent in the UK; 44



Having a ball: rugby's Will Carling, left, with Alan Reid

per cent thought America most likely to produce top boardroom leaders. Japan and Germany were both rated more favourably than the UK. Alan Reid, head of management consulting at KPMG,

said: "This survey underlines a worrying belief that the UK simply does not have the business leaders capable of taking it into the next millennium. British directors rate the business leaders of

the USA and Japan, two of the UK's major competitors, above our own. This lack of confidence is highlighted by the fact that, when asked, nearly a third of respondents were unable to name who they considered to be the UK's best business leader."

Poor communication skills were considered the greatest failing among UK directors, along with an aversion to taking risks, and lack of creativity. British directors often claim to be paid far less than their American counterparts, but Mr Reid said that there did not appear to be any particular connection between remuneration and boardroom talent.

KPMG, which is shortening its name from KPMG Peat Marwick in a re-branding exercise, is sponsoring a training course for potential business leaders. The KPMG Leadership Programme, open to 100 young managers, will focus on motivation, team building, and communications and will be led by Mr Carling. Chief executives will be invited to propose candidates.

## BANK OF IRELAND

### BASE RATE

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 3rd February 1995 its Base Rate is increased from 6.25% to 6.75%

Area Office,  
34 High St, Slough,  
Berks, SL1 1ED

## Coutts & Co Base Rate.

With effect from Thursday 2nd February 1995 Coutts & Co have increased their Base Rate from 6.25% p.a. to 6.75% p.a.



Coutts & Co  
440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

## INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. announces that with effect from close of business on 2 February 1995 its Base Rate was increased from 6.25% to 6.75% p.a.



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□ Paying the price for back office mistakes □ Stock Exchange should beware of rule change □ Break-up a likely outcome

□ "EXCUSE ME, sir...?"  
"What is it, Simkins?"  
"Well, you know the \$194 million we made trading those Eurobonds last year, the money you told me to put in a safe place and not blow on trying to corner the treasury bill market?"

"I remember it well. We paid the bond dealing team's bonuses out of it last Christmas. Why do you ask?"  
"Er... I'm afraid I can't find it. It appears it was never there in the first place. Apparently the storeroom car sat on Jenkins's keyboard during the office party and entered at least 12 non-existent transactions into the system. I think we ought to tell New York."

From the whacky world of the modern financial markets, where a plus sign instead of a minus sign in a set of accounts can and does cost millions of dollars, comes a new case of vanishing money.

A bundle of illegible trading slips and a handful of bad key strokes has cost Salomon Brothers dear. The firm had only just recovered its poise after the treasury bond scandals of 1992 which caused the departure of much of its senior staff. Now it sheepishly admits that the internal records of its London office were so much gobbledygook since they were littered with inaccuracies.

The firm is naturally at pains

to emphasise that none of its clients have been damaged by such carelessness. That is just as well. If any fund manager thought that by dealing with Salomon he risked seeing his cash disappear into a black hole, he would steer a very wide berth.

The frightening aspect of Salomon's admission is that the losses and discrepancies do not appear to have occurred in the rocket science department of the firm, on hidden derivatives exposures or badly hedged swaps transactions. No, there is a separate charge of \$23 million from a review of the firm's swaps exposure. Instead the mistakes look to have occurred in basic book-keeping in the back office.

Indirectly, though, the rapid development of the financial markets are to blame for the mistakes. Only three years ago, Salomon was only conducting 1,500 trades a day through its London centre. By last year, that volume had mushroomed to 6,000 and is still growing. That sort of growth puts any infrastructure under extreme pressure and it is clear that Salomon's back office could sim-

ply not cope with the workload, scrimped on its cross-checking procedures and allowed errors to creep in. Client transactions at least have a fail-safe because the client will complain if deutschmark bonds are delivered instead of swiss franc ones. In proprietary trades there is no such protection.

Salomon's rather lame excuse is that the discrepancy is small in relation to the \$2.7 billion that the firm has made over the period. At least however it has had the courage to admit its mistake and take the cost on the chin, rather than attempt an ill-concealed, weaselly prior year adjustment.

### Keep the market dogs at bay

□ REMEMBER the old argument. There is no danger of nuclear war, so nuclear weapons are a needless waste of money. That shows the deterrent works, countered the defence chaps. The Stock Exchange and the Office of Fair Trading should mull the deterrent issue carefully before they rush to unwind restrictive

### PENNINGTON



practices that delay publication of big share trades.

A London Business School study for the Exchange and Life concludes that the 90-minute delay is not needed to protect market-makers. Those who unwind their positions straight away usually do so within 45 minutes. And many do not feel they need to square their books. In any case, big deals are generally made at keener prices. So the loss of transparency, and therefore fairness to other buyers and sellers, is not justified. The market would be more efficient if it were abolished, or at least limited only to the small minority of truly vast deals. And market-makers should lose their privileged access to undisclosed

intra-market trades via inter-dealer brokers.

The study was well researched. But it could only investigate what happens under the present regime. Back in the post-crash dog days of 1988, when market-makers sought protection, business with real investors was so slack that they spent their time trying to sting each other, exploiting stock positions to turn prices against each other. The effect was to raise losses, increase caution, cut market liquidity and reduce efficiency. As the study found, market-makers are more relaxed now. That is partly because there is more business, but also because the delays deter dog from trying to eat dog.

The OFT should not lightly interfere with a regime that works. If the Exchange wants to break down barriers to transparency, as it should, it should move step by step, gradually raising the size of trades that are protected. There is no cause for precipitate action. One of the study's main purposes was to find out if market-makers were cheating: exploiting their inside

knowledge of their own trades to lay them off in the options market. Somewhat surprisingly, it found that they were not.

### The cost of Costain

□ WITHOUT wishing in any way to denigrate the valiant attempts by Costain's management to keep that group afloat over the past couple of years, it comes as a modest surprise to find someone is interested in buying the business. Shareholders should certainly not expect any putative bidder to pay much more than the current market price.

The most likely outcome is for the remaining coal business in the US, comprising mines in Kentucky, West Virginia and Alabama, to be sold as one deal and the rest of the business, comprising the international engineering and construction operations, to go to another contractor. Just what happens to the remaining property asset, a share in the probably worthless Spitalfields development in the

East End, should not trouble the market unduly.

A US sale, after the disposal earlier this month of the Dolet Hills mine in Louisiana, should leave Costain with a small amount of cash in the bank. A purchaser — and Bovis, in spite of parent P&O's coyness, is still favourite — would take this, a skilled workforce and a workload that includes huge contracts in Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and London's Jubilee line.

British contractors, traditional, inward-looking and burdened with a legacy of parochialism, are still too fragmented as an industry to take on big overseas competitors of the size of Bechtel, Bouygues and Hochtief. A merger between Costain and another such business would at least start the process of correcting this weakness.

### Cable message

□ VEBA set a six-month buying limit of 435p for Cable and Wireless shares. NatWest picked up the desired 10.5 per cent in a week at an average 389.2p. That should teach the Germans two things about the City. Institutional investors are as short-sighted and disloyal as the harshest critics charge. But the London market is much more liquid, efficient and professional than anything on the Continent.

## Surprise on profit boosts Wellcome's defence

By GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

WELLCOME, the drug giant fighting off an unwanted £8.8 billion bid from rival Glaxo, launched the first stage of its emergency defence yesterday with a rushed-out, but better than expected, results for 1994.

The figures were strong enough to persuade some City analysts that Glaxo was beginning to look as if it would win Wellcome at a reasonable price. But Wellcome had no news to offer on the search for a "white knight" bidder to save it from Glaxo.

Wellcome made £738 million in 1994, up 19 per cent on the £624 million for 1993 and better than the average City forecast of £720 million. There is a 30.4p total dividend for the 16 months to end December, reflecting a change in the company's year-end.

Embarrassingly, Wellcome has discovered that its two interim dividends in 1994 were paid without the necessary filing of the interim accounts to the Registrar of Companies. They are technically ultra vires and will need to be approved by an extraordinary meeting of shareholders yet to be convened.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive, said the results offered "very strong evidence that the Glaxo offer is very low." Wellcome's earnings rose 18 per cent to £2.1p a share, reducing the value of Glaxo's £10.25 a share bid to 19.7 times earnings. The multiple on the 1993 earnings, on which Glaxo launched its bid, was 23. Mr Robb says this

compares with the 27 times historic earnings that American Home Products paid for American Cyanamid last year, and the 28 times Bristol-Myers paid for Squibb in the wave of drug industry bids last year.

His views found sympathy with City analysts, to some extent. Smith New Court, the stockbroker, said: "If Glaxo gets it at this price, it is getting it slightly on the cheap side. But that does not necessarily mean that there is someone out there who is prepared to pay more." Mr Robb was unable to elaborate on the search for a "white knight" friendly bidder yesterday.

Under takeover rules, Glaxo is entitled to all the financial information passed to third parties, but can only have access to the information once Wellcome announces talks with a third party. Until then Wellcome need not pass extra financial information to Glaxo.

Unless a competing offer emerges, Glaxo — with the support of the charitable Wellcome Trust owning almost 40 per cent of the company — is home and dry. Glaxo has already said its offer is final and does not have to raise its own bid unless a "white knight" makes an offer.

Sir Richard Sykes, the Glaxo chief executive, said: "Nothing that Wellcome have said today changes our views. The commercial logic of our bid remains clear."

Tempus, page 24

## Peso speeds changes at Domecq

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Mexican economic crisis has prompted management changes at the Domecq spirits maker, bought last year by Allied Domecq, formerly known as Allied Lyons, with the finance director due to move across in the spring to oversee the Domecq business.

The reshuffle will see the retirement of Roy Moss, group vice chairman, in July. His responsibility as deputy chairman of Carlsberg-Tetley will be assumed by Tony Hales, group chief executive. Peter Macfarlane, currently finance director, goes to Domecq as executive vice chairman, while he is also made chairman of Lyons, the remaining food businesses due to be sold.

These mainly comprise the European baking interests, likely to be sold to management for more than £50 million, the slightly smaller UK cakes operation, and the Tetley tea business. Mr Macfarlane's replacement as finance director is Tony Trigg, currently in charge of the retail business.

Peso package, page 25

## Fyffes seeks acquisition in Europe

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

FYFFES, the fruit and vegetable distributor, is looking for a large acquisition in Europe to establish itself as the biggest player in the market.

The Dublin group said it could spend up to £1200 million on an acquisition if the right opportunity emerged. Carl McCann, deputy chairman, said: "In terms of net cash we have £153.6 million so we are in good shape on the cash front." The group wants to buy a European fruit distribution business to give it the scale to compete more profitably with large companies such as Dole. The plan is another sign of Fyffes' new-found aggression. It has spent £144 million on acquisitions in the past year.

Sales rose by 44 per cent to £1.897 billion in the year to October 31. Pre-tax profits grew by 14 per cent to £136.1 million from £131.8 million. Trading in the current year has started well. A final dividend of £1.0864p (£10.9876p) brings the total payout to £1.5158p (£15.789p), to be paid on April 7.

Tempus, page 24

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# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Trustees avoid chocolate bar

MARKET traders, dreading that a bundle of 320,000 Cadbury Schweppes shares worth £1.3 million might be dumped on the market, can relax. That venerable body, the Church of Scotland Investors Trust, with a £210 million portfolio to oversee, has examined its conscience and concluded that it can hold on to its Cadbury Schweppes shares after all. The question of "shall we, shan't we sell" arose in the wake of Cadbury's recent investment in Camelot — the company managing the National Lottery. The Trust, of course, does not invest in companies substantially involved in the tobacco, alcohol, gambling or armament industries. But having gone into a huddle, the word from Edinburgh is "the Investors Trust has been advised that expected profits from this source will only be 0.2 per cent of the total profits of Cadbury Schweppes and therefore saw no need to dispose of this holding". I gather that while the trustees may still like — and buy — chocolates for their own account, they will not be buying any more Cadbury shares.

## Out of court

ANOTHER mining man on the march is Andrew Harland, vice president — general counsel, of Monarch Resources, where, in 1991, no-nonsense Michael Beckett became chairman. Harland, one of Monarch's "old guard" who had been with the company since its inception in 1987, has resigned, effective immediately, to pursue other interests.



"Another 1/2 % off my feel-good factor"

WALKER Greenbank's £1.5 million takeover of Cole & Son and John Perry brings it the company that supplies all the wallpaper to the Palace of Westminster. Red has long been a popular colour at Westminster — presumably, it doesn't show the marks in the Whip's office.

## Long-sighted

MAIR BARNES — Venue Clio's Business Woman of the Year, 1988, Honorary Professor of Thames Valley University, non-executive director of Abbey National, etc etc — has not been idle since leaving Woolworths last February, where she was managing director. She has been working in Spain, South Africa and "in the steel industry in the UK" — all good experience for her appointment as executive chairman of the optical group Oceanhaven, which employs 5,000 and is sure to be stock market-bound one day. "I've never brought a company to market before. I'd like that," she says.

IAN HAY DAVIDSON, chairman of Storehouse and McDonnell Information Systems, has recovered sufficiently from the illness that laid him low in Australia last October to resume the non-executive chair at McDonnell. He is expected to return to other boardrooms shortly. Welcome back.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# No smoke without fire from the US anti-tobacco lobby

Ian Brodie reports  
on a new cigarette  
that could  
rescue  
the industry

The single cigarette lies encased in its own box of clear plastic. It is produced as a prize exhibit, a potential jewel in the crown, at the headquarters of the RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This demonstration model is a prototype for a cigarette that is being touted as a technical breakthrough, one that could solve a host of the industry's problems by giving smokers the taste and nicotine they want, but with little of the smoke, smell, ash or tar.

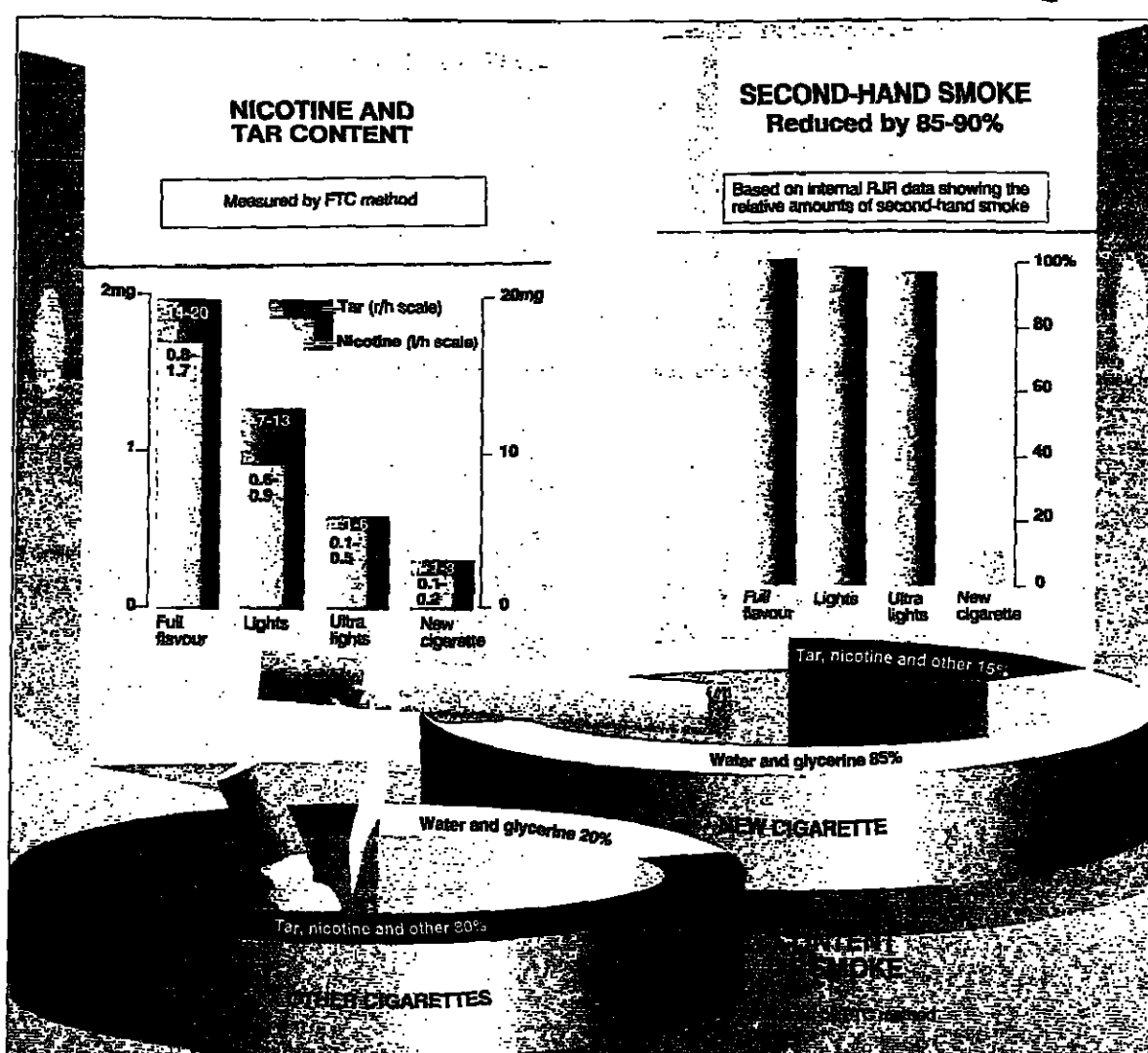
For now, the cigarette has been given the enigmatic name of Eclipse. It is because it will eclipse the competition or because it eclipses smoking's unwanted by-products? Executives at Reynolds will not say. Nor will they predict if and when the new cigarette will go on sale. The tobacco industry is left to wonder whether it will witness another flop that will go the way of previous smokeless cigarettes, or the biggest upheaval since two other innovations by Reynolds. In the 1950s, the company was the first to mass-market a filter cigarette and a menthol cigarette. They were named Winston and Salem, after Reynolds's home town in North Carolina, and they are still global best-sellers.

At the very least, Eclipse is evidence of a big manufacturer squarely facing the controversy over second-hand smoke, the issue that is turning smokers into pariahs and generating smoking bans in public places throughout America. One idea under consideration is to launch Eclipse in a European country, possibly Germany, where the risk of running into obstructionist regulations is thought to be less than in the America.

The Eclipse cigarette in the case is slit along the side to expose its innards. The revolutionary part is the tip, a plug of refined carbon that serves as the heat source. It is, in effect, a stove in its own insulated jacket. When the carbon is lit, a smoker drawing on the cigarette pulls hot air through the tobacco, which is mixed with a trace of glycerine, a moisturising agent that helps to extract the flavour. The resulting vapour reaches the smoker through a standard cellulose filter.

At no time does the tobacco burn. The cigarette yields its nicotine to the hot air rather than coffee beans relinquish their flavour to hot water in a percolator. The cigarette does not shrink in size, but the smoker knows it is finished when the carbon goes out and there is no more smoke to draw on. There is far less smoke than in a standard cigarette because it is mostly moisture. What little smoke there is dissipates as rapidly as warm breath exhaled on a frosty morning.

Reynolds claims that Eclipse has less tar and nicotine than all but the lowest of the ultra-light brands now on the market. The firm's internal data says that second-hand smoke is reduced by



85-90 per cent over all other brands. Company tests reveal minimal amounts of cancer-causing agents compared with standard cigarettes and, also important, there are no signs of any new substances not already in the smoke of other cigarettes.

The concept for Eclipse is seemingly so simple that one wonders why the industry has not produced it before and is not rushing into mass production now. One reason is that RJ Reynolds was burnt, if that is the word, by another tobacco-heating cigarette called Premier just eight years ago. It too was built around a carbon tip, which often fell off, and contained a capsule of "flavour beads". After five years of secret research, Premier was rushed out several years ahead of schedule to try to bolster Reynolds's share price during a leveraged buyout battle. So many smokers disliked Premier's smell and flavour, frequently making comparisons with barnyard, that the brand was quickly withdrawn.

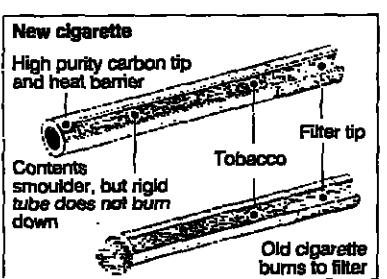
The Premier episode has left Wall Street sceptical. Reynolds's stock remained static when investors learnt about Eclipse last November. One analyst said: "Eclipse is not going anywhere, ever. Smokers will not get satisfaction from sucking on a vapouriser." Another recalled how Premier's tip had been difficult to draw on — it was called the "hernia effect".

Executives at Reynolds are understandably anxious not to repeat the Premier fiasco. Eclipse has been in development for two years with no launch date in sight. David Iauco, the firm's senior vice-president for world-

wide business development, said: "We're still looking at every component and have a lot more work to do." He insisted that Eclipse had tested well in America. Both smokers and non-smokers had welcomed the reduction in second-hand smoke and the absence of lingering smells and stains on clothes and curtains. "We're very encouraged," Mr Iauco said.

However, he said that putting Eclipse into production was not as simple as expanding an existing brand. It would require re-engineering the cigarette manufacturing process to accommodate the carbon tip and the foil-lined cigarette paper that keeps in the heat. Eclipse would need skillful marketing to explain what it offers and how it works.

Yet it seems likely that production challenges and marketing caution are not the only factors giving Reynolds reason to pause before launching Eclipse. The tobacco industry has been under increasingly ferocious attack. Chief executives of the cigarette com-



panies were widely disbelieved last year when they testified on Capitol Hill that nicotine was not addictive. True, the Republican takeover of Congress has halted the Democrats' onslaught against tobacco, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is still looking for ways to impose regulations. Local authorities remain on the war-path against smoking and lawsuits against tobacco firms continue to proliferate.

In this uncertain climate, a new cigarette, even one offering lower tar and nicotine, is a target for the anti-tobacco lobby. The worst hazard for Reynolds would be a decision by the FDA to outlaw Eclipse on the ground that it is not a conventional cigarette but a drug delivery system and therefore unsafe and illegal. Reynolds must also beware of the Federal Trade Commission.

Back in Winston-Salem, there is exasperation that the foes of smoking will give Reynolds no credit for reducing second-hand smoke, which the Environmental Protection Agency blames for 3,000 deaths a year. One executive at Reynolds said the angry reaction to Eclipse raised questions about the sincerity of the anti-tobacco lobby's concerns about second-hand smoke and whether its long-term agenda was an unstated desire to ban all smoking.

Reynolds is, in fact, encouraging tests of Eclipse by outside laboratories but is not, for now, allowing journalists to take a puff. It sees no point in having a negative review written while the show is still on the road.

# Peso package will raise G7 anxiety

Richer nations are being asked to find \$48 billion for Mexico, Janet Bush reports

Much of the self-congratulation that lent a warm glow to the fiftieth anniversary of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Madrid last autumn has evaporated with the Mexican peso crisis.

Only a few months later, the unravelling of Mexico's economic success story has placed a critical spotlight on the role of the IMF and its ability effectively to police potential financial and economic trouble spots.

One of the main items on the agenda of this weekend's meeting in Toronto of the Group of Seven, the IMF's richest paymasters, will be to question the apparent lack of an early warning system that could have headed off the peso debacle.

Mexico figures large in the G7 rumormongers for three reasons. First, the G7 always discusses the world economy and assumes a surveillance role. In spite of the rescue package being put together this week for Mexico, there is genuine concern that the loss of confidence will spread to other emerging economies.

Secondly, it was agreed at the economic summit in Naples last year that the group should review the role of the world's financial institutions. Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, will attend this weekend's meeting as usual. He will have matters of substance to report as the G7 gathers for its opening dinner tonight: the IMF board met on Wednesday to finalise its part of the Mexican rescue package.

This brings in the third reason. The G7 countries are to pay heavily for Mexico's crisis in the form of hefty loans. The Bank for International Settlements is putting together a \$10 billion financial package, largely from European countries. Britain's share of BIS financing is usually 16 per cent although it is not known if it applies in this case.

This BIS figure is on top of \$20 billion from America, \$7.5 billion in an IMF standby facility and a possible further \$10 billion set aside by the IMF as a contingency. The IMF will try to replace some of this money available from contributions from non-BIS countries. Latin American countries, for example, have talked about contributing \$1 billion.

The Mexico package, worth about \$48 billion, is a

huge amount of money, even in global terms. To put it in perspective, it is almost identical to the \$50 billion issue of special drawing rights that M Camdessus wanted agreed in Madrid as a boost to the reserves of the world economy. The G7 baulked at such a substantial injection of new liquidity on the grounds that it would be inflationary and because they did not want to pay for it. The issue dissolved into a row in Madrid. But now countries are being forced to reach into their pockets for almost the same sum — all for one troubled economy.

Robert Rubin, the new US Treasury Secretary, said this week that the US was not setting a precedent by leading the charge to rescue Mexico. He said it was crucial to make changes in the IMF and other international institutions so that they can deal with similar crises in the future.

Clearly, there is a real dilemma as emerging economies believe they will be bailed out from their economic mistakes, either by the IMF or by richer countries. And there is discomfort within the G7, many of whom are faced with very difficult fiscal problems, about the potential cost of instability elsewhere in the world economy.

The sense of discomfort has only been exacerbated by the speed of the events which resulted in the rescue package. The exercise has been led by the IMF and the US administration and much of the detail has had to be taken on trust.

Treasury sources said this week that Britain had been willing to go along with the package because of Mexico's impressive track record both as an IMF borrower and as an economic reformer. They also stressed that Mexico's particular problems — a huge current account deficit heavily financed with short-term money — is not common in developing countries.

Little of substance is likely to come out of this short weekend meeting of the G7 — the Japanese delegation have to leave on Saturday lunchtime to return to parliamentary business in Tokyo. But now that it is costing the industrialised countries money, the debate about the role of the world's financial policemen has taken on some urgency.

## Robert Miller gives a wealth warning on self-assessment

# The do-it-yourself tax revolution

A multi-million advertising campaign will shortly be unleashed on a largely unsuspecting public to promote the virtues of the new self-assessment system of taxation. The target audience is the nine million people who have to file annual tax returns.

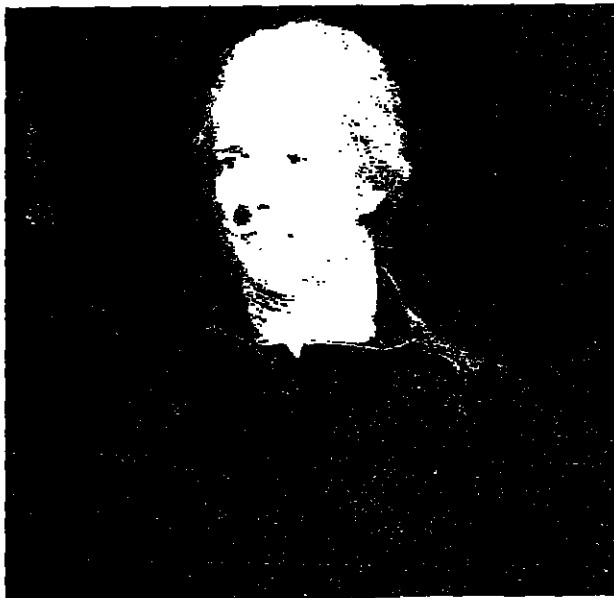
In spite of its rather unprepossessing title, self-assessment is one of the biggest changes to the tax system since William Pitt the Younger introduced income tax in 1799 to fund the Napoleonic Wars.

The self-assessment method of taxation is already well-established in the United States and British Revenue officials have regularly crossed the Atlantic to glean as much information as they can. In the UK the countdown to the full implementation of the new tax system has already started.

Some of the self-assessment rules have been applied to businesses that have started up since the beginning of the current tax year on April 6, 1994. The first self-assessment tax forms will be issued in April 1997 and they will have to be filed by January 31, 1998.

From the Inland Revenue's point of view self-assessment will streamline the personal tax system by making even greater use of modern technology operated by far fewer people. This is a large part of the strategy behind yesterday's announcement that the Revenue is to shed more than 12,000 jobs over the next seven years.

The Revenue has also been able to cut back on staff responsible for the personal tax system by passing responsibility for the administration of mortgage interest tax relief records back to the lenders.



William Pitt the Younger introduced income tax in 1799

Taxpayers who have to struggle with the new self-assessment forms will have two options. They can either work out how much tax they owe or, possibly, even how much the taxman owes them. This is known as the "taxpayer calculation". Alternatively, the sums could be left to the Revenue to add up under a "Revenue calculation" banner. In this case the tax form will have to be filed by September 30, instead of the following January, in order to leave the tax office enough time to do the calculations.

Both methods count as self-assessment because the tax bill will be based on the taxpayers' own figures. These will have to be specific to individual items such as salary, taxable profits, benefits-in-kind and claims to relief. For those who are on the PAYE (Pay-As-You-Earn) sys-

tem filing details of other earnings on time means that the Revenue will be able to adjust the individual tax code for the next tax year, if necessary.

According to the Revenue, the new system will be better because it will bring together all the income and capital gains tax liabilities. At present, different types of income have different rules and separate tax bills are issued to be paid on different dates. Self-assessment will allow personal allowances and tax relief claims for the same year to be included in the same tax return.

Payments to the Revenue will normally be due on January 31 and July 31 each year unless most of the tax is deducted at source, through PAYE, for example. The January payment will generally be

for half of the income tax amount due for the previous year, less any tax deducted at source. The second payment should be for the same amount as the first.

The January payments will include two elements, the first payment on account for the current tax year and a balancing payment (or refund claim) to settle up the amount over or underpaid for the previous year. Only one cheque will be needed to cover both payments.

When the self-assessment tax form is filed the taxman will process and check it. Any subsequent queries will generally be because the inspector thinks that something is wrong, or more information is needed.

The Revenue has about 12 months from the date the return is filed to notify the individual that it intends to make inquiries. Not all the taxpayers' figures are automatically accepted, however.

Even if there is no reason to check the tax return there will still be random checks. The Revenue says this is "to ensure that the system is operating fairly and properly, and that people are paying the right amount of tax".

As an added incentive, an automatic penalty of at least £100 will be levied on people who file late. Furthermore, interest and a 5 per cent surcharge will be added to the unpaid tax bill from the date it is due.

As if that was not enough, a further 5 per cent surcharge will be added if the outstanding bill is not settled within six months. You have been warned.

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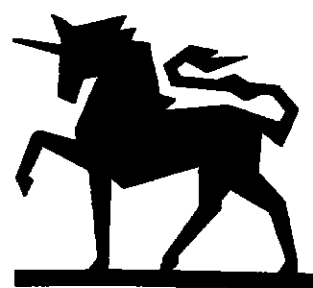
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# WELLCOME

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

for the financial period ended 31st December 1994 (unaudited)

	16 months December 1994	12 months December 1994	12 months December 1993	12 months December Change
Sales	£2,962m	<b>£2,276m</b>	£2,052m	up 13%
<b>Zovirax</b> sales	£1,109m	<b>£858m</b>	£742m	up 16%
<b>Retrovir</b> sales	£268m	<b>£206m</b>	£227m	down 7%
Research and Development	£454m	<b>£346m</b>	£336m	up 5%
Non-operating exceptional items	(£58m)	<b>(£58m)</b>	£17m	
Pre-tax profit (excluding exceptional items)	£939m	<b>£738m</b>	£624m	up 19%
Earnings per share (excluding exceptional items)	66.3p	<b>52.1p</b>	44.4p	up 18%
Final proposed dividend per share	16.0p			
Total dividend per share	30.4p			
Net cash		<b>£781m</b>	£618m	up £163m

Sales since January 1994 include Wellcome's share of the sales of Warner Wellcome Consumer Healthcare.  
All sales and profit percentage changes are at constant exchange rates.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sales advance an underlying 13%
- Pre-tax profits up 19%
- Operating margin for year at record 31.5%
- **Zovirax** prescription sales up 16% to £858m
- Launch of follow up compound **Valtrex**
- R&D successes in antiviral, CNS and oncology areas
- EPS 52.1p (up 18%)
- Final dividend of 16p per share

### Mr John Robb, Chairman and Chief Executive, said:

"These record-breaking results for 1994 show in very clear terms the strength of Wellcome's business and prospects. They demonstrate the success of the strategy which has been implemented over the past four years. Furthermore, they reinforce the Board's conviction that our current strategy is in the best interests of all our shareholders."

**Wellcome plc, Unicorn House, P.O. Box 129, 160 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP**

The financial information set out above does not constitute statutory accounts within Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The Company's auditors have made an unqualified report under Section 235 of that Act in respect of the financial period ended 31st August 1993 and such accounts have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; statutory accounts for the financial period ended 31st December 1994 have not yet been finalised.

John Robb 1995







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## INFOTECH

Competing systems of digital video discs could simply drive confused customers away, says Matthew May

## Disc wars may end in tears

Video CD was predicted to be the coming thing — a compact disc, just like its audio cousin, but able to store films and other programmes for playback on a television set. Or at least it was until a few weeks ago, when a new type of digital video disc (DVD) was announced by Sony and Philips. This is also based on a conventional CD but promises better quality and a longer playing time.

That, too, was the coming thing until last week. Then Toshiba and Time Warner announced that they had got the backing of several large Japanese electronic companies for a rival standard. It is, they claim, an even better type of video CD, able to use both sides. The suggested new formats are, of course, incompatible.

Now the industry is reportedly deep in thought, worried that it could be about to shoot itself in the foot. The fear is that the whole concept of the compact video disc could descend into a fight to set a world standard and change what was seen as one of the most promising new electronic products for the second half of the 1990s into such a jumble of confusion that customers will refuse to buy them.

This division comes at a time when manufacturers are still wondering what will be the result of another split in the industry. This involves the sale of devices offering

customers higher-quality digital sound that are more portable than a compact disc and, unlike a CD, that can record.

While Philips went for a modified version of the audio cassette, DCC, Sony developed the Minidisc — a smaller version of the CD. But two competing formats, coupled with high prices, have resulted in dismal sales. Buyers are worried that, having spent several hundred pounds on equipment to use the new formats, they could be left with the losing one — in the same way that the success of VHS video recorders made Betamax obsolete.

In the case of video on compact disc, Video CD was never ideal. With a limit of 75 minutes' playing time, putting a film on usually requires two discs and the quality may be little better than VHS tape. Hence there is little attraction for people to buy special equipment for something that, unlike VCRs, cannot record.

In Britain, people wanting to try Video CD can do so only with specially-adapted multimedia PCs or CD-i players. Video CD now looks destined to be relegated to providing the basis for the latest breed of karaoke machines — a huge market in some countries.

The Sony and Philips version of a digital video disc (DVD) is a considerable improvement. There is up to 135 minutes of playing time on each disc, enough to store most

films on one CD and far better picture quality than a videotape. But Toshiba says it has gone one better with a double-sided disc — able to store up to 142 minutes on each side.

It, too, claims far higher picture quality than Video CD as well as Dolby sound, up to eight audio channels — allowing film soundtracks to be stored in multiple languages — and 32 sub-title channels.

Importantly, it has got the support of large Japanese manufacturers such as Matsushita, Hitachi and Pioneer. The hope by the rest of the industry is that Sony and Philips will make their peace and come to some agreement with the Toshiba camp to develop a common world standard.

If DVD is to become a mass-market item it will probably be on the back of the predicted expansion in so-called "home cinema". These systems typically start by linking together large widescreen televisions and Dolby Surround Sound systems — with the idea of trying to recreate the effect of going to the cinema.

Prices are still high, but companies are convinced that demand is there. Granada UK Rental, for example, has just started to rent 32-inch widescreen televisions at £40 a



Home cinema systems like this one on offer from Granada UK Rental are tipped as a boom area

month, and for those wanting to try the existing Video CD a suitably adapted CD-i player is available for £28 a month.

"With the new generation of widescreen TVs and CD-i, for example, we found that spontaneous awareness levels were minimal," says Arnold Woodhouse, marketing and sales executive for

Granada. "Yet when people understand the products their desirability rose dramatically."

For those convinced of the need for home cinema a standardised DVD that offers higher-quality pictures and sound on a CD that will not deteriorate with wear may well prove irresistible. For the rest of us the details of both the DVDs

planned omit one crucial word — recording. Without recording facilities DVD is an addition, not a replacement for a VCR.

But for the film industry the ideal world for video on CD would be one that repeats the success of the audio CD, where the inability to record on CD has helped to boost sales.

## It's good to type to you, dear

GETTING to know someone through electronic mail (e-mail) could be better than meeting face to face. Joseph Walther, an assistant professor at Northwestern University in Illinois, says that people are more relaxed when they communicate by computer because they do not have to worry about such things as pulling in their stomach.

Because e-mail is "easy to edit and is blind to physical cues, you present yourself in your best light", he says. Mr Walther studied 16 three-person groups of students meeting face to face and a like number who met only through computers.

The groups that had never met face to face were actually more socially orientated than those meeting face to face, he says, comparing hobbies, musical preferences and other personal information.

He says it may take longer to develop social relationships via e-mail but it can, in some cases, achieve more than face to face interaction. "You don't have to hold in your waist, worry about what you're wearing or think as carefully about the words you choose because you can edit your message before you send it."

Those in face-to-face groups had clearer impressions of their colleagues after two weeks but after six weeks those in the computer groups had impressions that were just as well-defined.

## Keeping secrets

A COMETER chip which is claimed to guarantee secure communications is being developed by Bell Laboratories, owned by AT&T and VLSI, a California chip maker.

The chip has built-in data and privacy-protection features and will be aimed at mobile phones, wireless networks and online networks.

## Tax discs

SIR George Younger, the Treasury financial secretary, has asked the Inland Revenue to "look actively and urgently" at producing a version of the tax return CD. "Filing in a tax return lends itself naturally to the use of a PC," he said. He added that any disc would be a natural candidate for private sector involvement.

## What a card

Americ Express, whose advisers suggest that customers should not leave home without their cards, can now tell members that they do not

## ONLINE

have to leave home at all. Amex has joined the US service, America Online, another sign of the growing interest of big companies in selling online.

Express Net, as the venture will be known, allows cardholders to pay bills, book hotels, rent cars or reserve airline tickets. Online sales of consumer goods and services are currently valued at about £130 million a year.

## Blocked calls

A PLUMBER in Philadelphia is being accused of using a call-forwarding service to siphon off his rivals' customers.

Michael Lasch allegedly used the service — which allows people to forward calls from one telephone by dialling in a code from any other phone — to switch calls destined for at least five other plumbing companies.

The scheme was discovered only when a customer called a rival to compliment him on the work performed at her home over Christmas. She was told his men had not worked that weekend.

£210 to be told we should have stayed in bed



## Road news

FROM March 21, motorists will be able to buy a device that gives them live traffic information across some 2,400 miles of the United Kingdom's road network.

Trafficmaster has said that its device, which uses a nationwide system of road sensors to alert motorists to traffic jams and tailbacks ahead, will cost £150.

A smartcard costing £60 for six months use is also needed to operate the system.

## New charges

THE online service CompuServe is cutting prices from Sunday. Charges for access at the higher speeds of 9.6 and 14.4 kilobits per second will be halved to £3.10 an hour or about 5p a minute.

It will also abolish a £4.80 an hour surcharge for prime time use and subscribers will be able to send up to the equivalent of 90 three-page electronic mail messages per month without additional charges. Monthly membership charges increase, however, by 65p to £6.38.

## Fresh Apple

APPLE Computer has introduced an improved version of the Newton hand-held computer. It is the third update since the device made its debut 18 months ago.

The new machine will cost from £400 and include a model with nearly three times the storage space of the original. Apple says it will accept a greater variety of devices that let it receive data, send faxes and exchange messages.

Information edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: mail@times@delphi.com

## Techno helpline to please Sir

GUIDING teachers through the minefield of computer crashes and electronic problems is the aim of a new Schools Technology Helpline which has just started in Wales.

Set up to handle both the technical queries of specialist information-technology staff as well as those of non-specialist teachers, the free helpline is being staffed daily by lecturers in the School of Electronics and System Design at the Cardiff Institute of Higher Education.

As it is being financed by

the South Glamorgan Education Business Partnership, the helpline is being launched initially as a pilot scheme for the local area. Most of the questions raised are dealt with instantly by telephone. But if some teachers need further assistance, college staff will be happy to visit the local schools.

Schools in the rest of the UK can also use the telephone service to solve their technological problems. The helpline, which is open from 9am-5pm daily, is on 01222 506686.

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# Follow the treasure chart

The regional gap between the highest and lowest pay for information technology specialists is widening.

London continues to be where the best money can be made, especially for software specialists. The western half of the country is generally at the other end of the scale.

The trend in the past two years indicates that the gap is growing. Regional differentials in rates of pay are likely to be further exaggerated by an expected increase in salaries across the IT industry. The increase in employment in this sector over the next two years will result in greater competition for employing experienced people, hence the pressure for some salaries to increase quickly.

Through in previous economic downturns IT specialists have escaped the worst of the belt-tightening, the recent recession struck the IT sector like any other, with layoffs and pay freezes becoming common.

However, recent surveys suggest that salaries will increase more impressively this year, with freelancers also find-

More jobs are being advertised and pay is rising.

David Guest on where the best money can be made

ing that their rates and lengths of contract are improving.

The number of advertised jobs for IT managers, for example, has jumped 12 per cent in the past three months, according to a survey by MSL. For programmers, regional differences can be important. Their London weighting amounts to 20 per cent more than their national median salary, according to figures from Reward, the salary research company.

In cash terms, the London-based programmer might expect to make £22,740 as against the £19,054 of his colleagues in the regions, while for analyst/programmers, the London median is £22,738.

Reward figures show that the national median salary for analyst/programmers last year was £18,800 — up by just £60 on the previous year and an increase barely in line with the cost of living.

Computing managers, by contrast, have seen the

London effect waning in the past three years. In 1992, they too could have made 20 per cent more than the national median in London. However, after two years of relative decline, the weighting was down to 12.9 per cent last year. That translates to £37,730 in London and £33,420 for the country as a whole.

The chart (right) shows national salaries in 1994. Reward's figures are for basic salaries in different categories of job, and they cover full-time salaried employees only. Its figures for median total pay indicate that programmers enjoy negligible extras, while analyst/programmers and other grades up to computing manager do little better.

But if perks such as company cars or advantageous mortgage terms are taken into account, the pre-eminence of London would almost certainly be even more pronounced.

The specific skills of IT workers probably count for more in determining pay than

any other factor. The position of contractors introduces a further complication. By definition more mobile, freelance computer specialists will often move freely around Britain in search of the best reward for their talents.

The basic figures suggest that for most job categories, any recovery in the IT jobs and salaries scene this year will serve to exaggerate regional differences.

From the statistics, Scotland looks like the land of opportunity for software specialists. It is the only region in which programmers' pay has increased steadily against the national median over the past three years. From 0.5 per cent above in September 1992, it has moved to 5.7 per cent, almost on a par with southeast England.

Mothers advising their children on a career in programming should not urge them to "Go west". If the streets of London are paved with gold, those of the West

Midlands appear to be flinty. The West Midlands has been bottom of the national IT programmers' salaries list for the past two years.

By September last year it had slumped more than 15 per cent below the national figure, on a three-year downward trend. Pay in the South West is on a similar declining curve but less accentuated — 4.8 per cent below the national median in 1994.

Some of these variations may be explained by the flatness of the IT job market in recent years, with little movement of personnel and hence little competitive upward pressure on salaries. For managers, these have also been times of flattened management hierarchies, downsizing and wholesale contracting out of computer operations.

If 1995 brings any significant relief, computing managers could be among the first to feel it. To give themselves a better chance, the best bet could be a job in the food, drink or tobacco industry, in Scotland, with a company of more than 10,000 employees.

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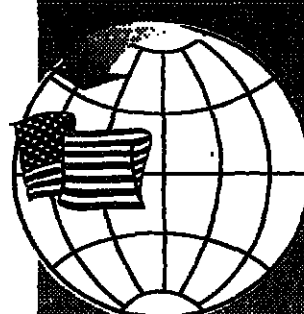
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**POP page 32**  
For five months of the year Kristin Hersh is a mother; for the other seven she's a genius

# ARTS

**POP page 33**  
Pumping up the Bass: why play Wembley when you can play the local pub every Tuesday?



**THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale finds deafening tunes and banal narrative in the London premiere of an American hit musical**

## Gospel rings out loud and all too clear

You cannot tell me that the almighty uplift on offer at the Cambridge did not permeate the theatre's walls on opening night, rousing and rattling the streets beyond. I bet that as far away as Trafalgar Square people were asking if some hot-gospel singer wasn't casting out devils at a revivalist meeting round the corner or wondering if they hadn't absentmindedly kept their headphones switched on and their screeching cassette switched up. For those of us sitting in the stalls it was like being plunged into a musical apocalypse.

And who was the reason for the ado? The American rock, soul and gospel singer Doris Troy, nee Winter, was being feted by her younger sister, Vy Higginsen, as she is now called, wrote and directed *Mama, I Want to Sing* with her husband, Ken Wydro, seeing it evolve from a concert piece for New York's Fordham University to a musical that ran for 2,400 performances off-Broadway and has since been performed everywhere from Venice to Tokyo. Somewhere along the line, Troy herself joined the cast, and is now to be seen in London, playing her own mother.

All this says a lot for the

mutual affection and enterprise of the Winter clan — but is it of surpassing interest to the rest of us? Again, the programme tells us that *Mama, I Want to Sing* is a household name in Japan. Is there any reason except our musical insularity why its subject isn't part of the regular

**Mama, I Want to Sing**  
Cambridge

teatime chit-chat within my family's four walls? There were moments, mainly when the miking became especially ferocious or the narration particularly plodding, when I did wonder.

The first scene is promising, hurling us as it does into singing practice at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, where Doris's father was pastor. Charles Stewart's choir-master springs and spins about in his efforts to get a heartfelt tribute to Jesus out of the blue-frocked ladies and gents perched beneath the plain cross and gaudy windows. Perhaps the show to come will catch the black Baptist spirit, the hunger and

the joy embodied in those strenuous harmonies. Perhaps it will not just be a case of long, loud notes posing as feeling, and feeling posing as soul.

Well, Chaka Khan, who plays one Sister Carrie, has her moments. Stacy Francis's Doris, too, sometimes traverses the octaves, making the middle registers throb, sob and ululate, and ending up on the musical ceiling. But even before Doris's father (nice Howard McCrary) sings a sermon and then expires of a stroke it is evident that something is missing. "You must have a dream that's your own," he sings to Doris, demure in her pink nightdress and bow; and she goes on to interpret him in a depressingly traditional American fashion.

When New York musicals talk of dreams, they invariably mean dreams of success and fame. When Doris speaks of going about "my father's business", she means doing her dad proud in the charts, not at Gethsemane. Accordingly, the show settles into a sketchy tale of poor-girl-makes-good, complete with a row with her worried mother (a benignly glowering Troy), hard times



Charles Stewart, Chaka Khan, Doris Troy, Stacy Francis in *Mama, I Want to Sing*. Troy, on whose life the show is based, plays her own mother

**CINEMA: Joe Joseph on the American director who fought Hollywood for her first film**

When Quentin Tarantino was being frisked by his would-be protégés at the National Film Theatre last Saturday for some tips, he told them that the whole point of the great American dream is that anyone can get what they want, as long as they want it badly enough. That's how he made *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, that's why he didn't wait for scripts to fall from the sky, that's why he wrote and directed them himself. There's

## She did it her way

just one drawback, though: the American dream doesn't exist for meek, retiring types. Tarantino says you have to be "a go-getter". Darnell Martin, the young American writer-director of *I Like It Like That* (released in Britain today), is so go-getting that only electric shock treatment could give her extra zip.

She may not relish the way Columbia is touting her as Hollywood's first black female director ("When you look in the Yellow Pages, do you see African-American women dentists?"). But the fact is that other black studios haven't backed black women directors — even half-Irish ones, as Martin is. Her lonely success

is a measure of her talent. But also of her doggedness.

OK, so she compromised with Columbia on the film's title. She wanted to call it "Blackout", which better suited the movie's sweet-and-sour plot about a Bronx mother-of-three who gets a job to bail out her philandering husband after he is jailed for looting during a blackout. But Columbia, keen to pitch the film as a romantic comedy, pressed for *I Like It Like That*.

The cameras very nearly didn't start to roll at all, because Martin decided she would rather make no film than make one on the cheap. On the cheap, as far as she was concerned, was the \$2 million that New Line Cinema offered for the story she had written while studying film at New York University. It would have meant a seven-week

shoot: not long enough, Martin insisted. Remember, this woman spurning \$2 million has not yet even made a feature film.

Then Spike Lee offered to produce the film at Universal, but Martin feared that Lee's signature would overshadow her own. It was only when Columbia stumped up \$5.5 million and a nine-week shooting schedule that Martin signed. Even then she bickered furiously when Columbia wanted to cut three of the headier scenes that the studio thought would weigh down an effervescent movie. Columbia backed down after Martin threatened to take her name off the film.

"What happens," she says, "is that people think you're crazy when you care about something. It's not being stubborn. I refuse to even discuss something that's insane and that's only going to make us both frustrated. I made the movie I wanted to make, but not without a huge fight."



An eye on success: first-time film-maker Darnell Martin

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### CONCERT

## Czech brings rewards

BBCSO/Bělohávek  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IT MAKES sense for orchestras, especially those who work as hard as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, to deconstruct themselves occasionally, so that the musicians can remind themselves how it feels to rehearse and perform in a chamber-like way.

In this concert, under the modest but reliable and subtly inflected direction of the Czech conductor Jiří Bělohávek, we could hear just how polished the woodwind section is in Dvořák's beautiful D minor Wind Serenade, Op 44, light music par excellence, as meticulously fashioned and as eloquent as Mozart's works in the same genre, and with a deeply touching Andante for a third movement. The blend in all four movements was exquisite, the pacing spacious without ever dragging, and the roundness of tone that came from oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns alike caressed the ear silkily.

After such a work possibly only music by Mozart himself could follow. The piece chosen was the A major Piano Concerto, K488, a work whose colour I have always thought of as the most verdant green. Like Bělohávek, the solo pianist, Ivan Moravec, was not to be hurried. He enjoyed the music's spaces, and like the wind players emphasised above all the singing tonal qualities of his instrument. His performance was immensely enjoyable both for that and for a certain spontaneity in phrasing which restored to the piece — even to the wistful slow movement — the improvisational flavour characteristic of its genre but usually ignored in today's surer-than-sure fashion.

The woodwind had hogged the limelight at the beginning, so after the interval it was the turn of the strings to show how they could enjoy the opulence of the Serenade, Op 6, by Dvořák's pupil, Josef Suk. Another exquisitely crafted piece, it was written very much under Dvořák's spell, and given the warmest of performances here, garnished with unforgettably lovely solos from Stephen Bryant's violin and Paul Watkins's cello, contributions that Bělohávek, as fine a champion of his nation's 19th-century music as you are likely to find, was quick to acknowledge.

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A COMEDY OF THE HEART AND OTHER ORGANS

ANTHONY HOPKINS  
BRIDGET FONDA  
MATTHEW BRODERICK  
JOHN CUSACK  
DANA CARVEY

IN THE WEST END AND AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW



## Strength in numbers

**K**ristin Hersh has to juggle being a mother with being a genius. She spends five months of the year in her house in a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, scrambling around under dressers trying to retrieve enthusiastically torn potato, and blotting up toddler tears with the hem of her shirt; and the other seven writhing in front of a microphone with one leg twisted at a 45 degree angle to the rest of her body, her head weaving back and forth like a cobra trying to charm the snake-charmer, and her pale blue eyes staring into a place equidistant between here and some other place no one else sees.

coffee. Now I'm this 'role-model' photoshoot suddenly mean I have to stand around and look seductive — yet strong — in frilly underwear."

They get you to do *underwear* photo shoots? "Oh yeah, I dunno whether it's something to do with 'Hey! She's a strong woman, let's get pictures of her in her pants!' or it's just to have another couple of months having tissues stuffed down my bra. I walked out a couple of times. Fashion people are strange. I think they think I'm the singing Tank Girl."

The singing Tank Girl with the amazing eyes has a new album out on *University*, recorded with the whole Throwing Muses crew. Kristin, you do

A black and white headshot of baseball player Tim Lincecum. He has dark hair, sideburns, and is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The photo is cropped closely around his face.

**LINCECUM**

realise everyone wants Hips and Makers II — the Sensitive Songwriter Returns? Fans of that album might think this one's a bit...um...loud.

"Wee!!!!!!" Herch draws, all her Deep South childhood contained in the one word. "I tend to think of *Hips and Makers* as a little bit of poison — you know, like belladonna or heroin or something. You take than a little bit, and it raises your resistance to the next dose, so you can't take more."

"Love works the same way; you take that little bitty bit of poison, and suddenly you're hooked and you want more and more of your lover. You want more and more of your lover. You want more and more of your lover."

who think obsession is something to be frowned - "I think they're scared of the danger involved; they don't like the vivid colours and disturbing dreams it invokes."

"Obsession is healthy. Most people want the world to be flat and grey and bread-and-butter and, sure, I think, in a way, that's why so much dull music sells. I find safe, dull music more offensive than murder. Well, almost. I like strong things. I'm not frightened of being frightened."

And there's no need for fans of *Hips and Makers* to be frightened of University's loud guitars. If *Hips and Makers* was a beautiful pencil-sketch, then *University* is a bright, painted canvas: a Picasso to Hersh's previous Monet.

“These songs come to me, and I treat them well, I treat them how they want to be treated,” she says. “And these songs want to be a little, ah, fiercer.”

● **Throwing Muses** play the Plaza, Glasgow (Feb 8); Manchester University (Feb 9); Shepherd's Bush Empire, London (Feb 10); Tivoli, Dublin (Feb 11); Astoria, London (Feb 20)

**Don't worry, kids, the guns are fake: the only bullets Kristin Hersh, Bernard Georges (left) and David Narrizo of Throwing Muses fire are emotional ones**

**McFadden and Whitehead's** summer disco hit of 1979, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now," was a clarion call of optimism. What anybody

**NEW WAVES: TOMORROW'S SOUNDS TODAY**

**Let's hear it for the boys**

was not going to be stopped from doing was unspecified; just hearing that chorus was enough to make you indestructible.

Cruel world that this is. all sorts of things shuddered to a halt as soon as the record dropped out of the charts. Disco reached the end of its natural life and, after years of sterile labour, turning out

hits for other artists in the songwriting backroom of Philadelphia International Records, McFadden and Whitehead's turn under the spotlight was brief.

under the aegis of their godfather. Kenny Gamble says they have regrouped and now carry the family reputation under the name of **Whitehead Bros.**

Their debut album for Motown proves that optimism is another asset that is transferable from generation to generation. From the first

moment of *Serious* the brothers display a comprehensive grasp of 1990s production values and classic songwriting skills. "Forget I Was 'G'" juxtaposes grainy drum loops and Stevie Wonderish vocal mannerisms with the uplift of disco.

Charismatic and accomplished as they are, the new

The first single, "Your Love Is a 187", has already hit the UK charts. If they can learn from their father's longevity in the business, Whitehead Bros will turn this initial success into a career.

**DAVID TOOP**

DAVID TOOP

...the



... a big hand for the heroes of pub rock ... big bands for the unsung hero of the real stuff ... plus unplugged electricity

# Two pints of lager and a round for the band, please

Many groups start out playing in pubs for beer and small change. Alan Jackson discovers why some are quite happy to stay there

In assorted stadiums around the globe tonight, the likes of R.E.M., Janet Jackson and Bob Dylan will perform. But it's unlikely that Michael Stipe will drive to the gig in a red Ford Granada estate, his instruments and equipment wedged in the back. It is even less likely that they will pass a bucket through the crowd as the sultry Jackson slinks off stage, the donations of small change serving to augment her £100-or-so performance fee. And while it's possible that some know-it-all will call to tell me that I am wrong, I'll stick my neck out and say that Dylan is not — and, indeed, never has been — a part-time civil servant, interpreting European Community policy directives at the Department of Employment.

That's because Michael and Janet and Bob are at the very top of the popular music ladder. Playing stadiums is their day job. If their contract states that a crate of Dom Perignon and a vat of Smarties (yellow ones removed) must await them in their dressing room, you can bet the champagne will be on ice and that some poor soul will sort through each last tube of sweeties with a gloved hand. That's the sort of thing that happens when you make enormous profits for your record company. It's not how it works in the world of pub gigs.

At the Station Tavern in Bramley Road, west London, the first Tuesday evening of each month belongs to Giles Hedley and the Aviators. Like R.E.M., they can boast a dedicated following. Like Jackson, their musical style owes much to the black American tradition. And, in the case of Hedley himself, there is a live performance history that stretches back 30 years, sufficient to rival Dylan's. But it's beer on the

table, not champagne, when we meet prior to his set, and there's not even a Smartie in sight. For this amiable 47-year-old is our man in the red Granada estate ("A great gigmobile — you can get so much in it"), our groover from the D of E. "I'm very lucky," he says of his job there. "My fine manager is a retired jazz singer, and she's really accommodating when it comes to my music schedule."

**When I took over the pub it was full of drug dealers and thugs. We used psychology to get them out**

Playing at the Station means you'll get old before you get rich. There's no admission charge for the different acts put on each night of the week (plus Sunday lunchtimes), and the highest fee does not exceed £200 (hence the bucket). But, by playing there regularly, as well as elsewhere on the bar and festival circuits, Hedley is able to make 60 per cent of his income from his first love, Delta blues.

His tastes were formed young, encouraged by an older brother obsessed with New Orleans jazz. "Before my voice broke I'd lock myself away anywhere that had an echo and sing Bessie Smith numbers," he says. "Then the first Elvis LP was released and I found myself learning all the Otis Blackwell and 'Big Boy' Crudup songs. I didn't

know why, just that I loved that kind of music. Then someone told me it was the blues."

As he talks, the room, dominated by its big, circular bar, is steadily filling, the mix of incomers making nonsense of the theory that only ageing anorak-wearers would turn out on a wet winter's night to see live music of this sort. Most are young, and the two women sitting next to us, dressed shoulder-to-shoulder in bandage-tight black, could have stepped straight out of fashion PR. One even has the requisite Harvey Nichols carrier stowed beneath her seat. "I tell you," her blonde head is saying confidentially, "she was introduced to Richard Gere and actually had the bottle to say to him ..."

Quite what she said remains a secret, though, because landlord Bob Bravington has arrived to offer his welcome. Even he has a different day job, as a microbiologist involved in fungal research, a trade pertinent to the venture, possibly? "This was where the 1958 Notting Hill race riots began," Bravington says, "and even when I came here, in 1986, it was full of drug dealers and thugs. We used psychology to get them out. For instance, they all drank a certain sort of beer, so we stopped selling it. But starting up with blues musicians was the best weapon. It proved far too sophisticated for them."

Initially, times were hard. An act like Big Joe Louis and his Blueskins would play, and there would be only Bravington, his dog, and the drummer's girlfriend in the whole place. Word soon spread, though, and now devotees pour in from Latimer Road tube station, just across the road.

Not that all visitors are Railroad-



In the depths of west London, the spirit of Jimmy Page lives: twin-necked plank-spanker Giles Hedley gives it some Delta blues welly

reliant, though. During a difficult spell in her relationship with nearby record company EMI, Sinead O'Connor insisted that all necessary meetings be conducted in the pub. And a Polaroid held safe in Bravington's wallet verifies that a white-jacketed Tom Jones was a recent visitor: "He got up with the band and did two numbers, and very good they were too."

Celebrityhood is not the name of the game, though. From Shazzy Vick's Big City Blues Band through Saichi Sugiyama & Co to Harry Kane and the Moneymakers, the

Station's programme proves that its raison d'être is to promote a music too little heard elsewhere.

"And, because there are so few around up to the necessary standard, I'm not above trying to influence things myself," Bravington says. "If a very average band auditioned for me but I notice they've got a great drummer, I'll try to get his name and number and then introduce him to the great something else I've spotted in another very average band. Then it's 'Fred, meet Frank ...' and off they go into a corner to talk. A few

weeks later there's a tape in the post: 'Bob, here's some stuff by the Fred'n'Frank Band'."

Such dedication may be tough on the rejects but, hey, it's a jungle out there. And Bravington believes attention to detail is crucial. Why, in order to make sure women visitors feel entirely at home here, there's even a revamp of the ladies' undergarment — luxury too seats, and framed pictures of the female blues greats, "to reassure them of their own role in the tradition."

No more time to talk, though. Aviators Steve Laffey and Richard

Sadler have mounted the foot-high stage and assumed position at drums and double-bass, and Hedley — the only man in Britain able to play twin harmonicas and slide guitar at the same time — has stepped forward. "I called my baby on the telephone," he sings, and a whole bar-room, Ah Fab girls included, is rapt. Who is to say that, for the performers, the buzz is anything less than the superstars will feel tonight, faced by endless thousands of the faithful?

● The Station Tavern, 41 Bramley Road, W10 (0171-727 4053)

## VARIOUS ARTISTS

*Beat the Retreat — Songs by Richard Thompson* (Capitol 7243 8 31482)

THE idea of commissioning a star-studded roster of artists to record the songs of one especially noteworthy writer or performer is well-established. Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, Van Morrison and the Eagles are among those who have submitted to the treatment — either posthumously, willingly or otherwise — in recent times. But the mystery of who these "tribute" albums are being aimed at deepens with *Beat the Retreat*, which features an impressively varied cast of acts performing the songs of Richard Thompson.

Admirers of Thompson will doubtless be curious to hear what Bonnie Raitt makes of "When the Spell Is Broken" or how Los Lobos tackle "Down Where the Drunkards Roll". And fans of R.E.M., for instance, will want to hear their heroes' version of "Wall of Death". But the plot starts to get a bit tangled when English folk singer June Tabor's straight-

laced version of "Genesis Hall" gives way to Dinosaur Jr's thunderous rendition of "Misunderstood". And whether or not aficionados of folk troubadours Maddy Prior and Martin Carthy will find their delicate acoustic renderings of "Farwell, Farewell" and "The Great Valerio" provide a sufficient incentive to brave the turbo-charged version of "Turning of the Tide", sup-

plied by grunge godfather Bob Mould, is open to doubt.

In any case, none of them can hold a candle to Thompson's spellbinding delivery of these songs. Of the singers, it is Mould who, surprisingly, comes closest to managing the master's dark, disdainful tone, while most of the guitarists (the sensible ones, anyway) don't even try to compete.

## SPIRITUALIZED MAINLINE

*Pure Phase* (Dedicated DED 017) WHEN Spiritualized (as they used to be known) released their *Lazer Guided Melodies* in 1992, its hazy, lazy, lost-in-space electronic rock sound was little short of revolutionary. Since then, not only has the baton been carried several leagues forward by bands such as Verve and Under-

world, but the ambient brigade (Aphex Twin, The Orb et al) have shifted the world of electronic music on its axis.

Consequently, *Pure Phase* is not the revelation its predecessor was widely held to be, notwithstanding the addition on some tracks of strings courtesy of the Balanescu Quartet and several devastating harmonica forays by bass guitarist Sean Cook.

Despite occasional bursts of activity, such as the cacophonous climax (after eight minutes or so) of "Medication" and the ferocious thrashing and bashing of "Good Times", more typical of the album as a whole is the spaced-out drone of "Take Good Care Of It" or the listless ebb and flow of "Let It Flow". Kate Radley's keyboards seem to be oscillating on auto-pilot for much of the time, while Jason Pierce's

vocals sit in the mix like fog drifting around a mountain top. As tripped-out, drugged-up mood music for the interstellar traveller, it has its moments. But even a casual reality check exposes most of it as pretty nebulous stuff.

## EZIO

*Black Boots on Latin Feet* (Arista/BMG 7432140152)

EZIO has produced a debut album aimed squarely at what we are nowadays pleased to call the "adult contemporary market". There are echoes of String and Paul Simon in the singing and songwriting style of Ezio Lunedei, while his partner, the enigmatically named Bonga, supplies lead guitar breaks that sound at times like a flamenco version of Mark Knopfler.

So, no danger of this pair ever being a hit. And indeed,

when they indulge a streak of saccharine romanticism in "Cancel Today", it is a future in the corner of some West End wine bar which beckons, rather than *Top of the Pops*.

The production, by Rupert Hine, whose previous clients include Tina Turner and Robert Palmer, is sparse and uncluttered and, along with the duo's accomplished musicianship (see live review below), the album's great strength is its simplicity. This lends a refreshingly simple touch to sorry tales of lost love ("Go") and mid-life crisis ("Thirty and Confused").

## THUNDER

*Behind Closed Doors* (EMI 7243 8 31700)

HAVING survived implacable critical disdain and an unseemly bout of internal wrangling after the release of

their last album, *Laughing on Judgement Day*, in 1992, Thunder return to the fray, brandishing another collection of blokish soft-metal songs with catchy choruses and unoriginal titles.

"Fly On The Wall" (not the AC/DC song) makes unusual use of a horn section to spice up a romping, Zeppelinesque riff, while "I'll Be Waiting" (not the Santana song) is a soulful-sounding number with a typically sophisticated veneer. Singer Daniel Bowes, a man well versed in the Paul Rodgers/David Coverdale school of throaty, blues-rock vocalise, knows how to handle a tune but stumbles over some lamentable lyrics. "Every now and then, boy, you gotta take it on the chin/lit's just another symptom of the world were living in," he avers on "Stand Up" (not the AC/DC song).

It's a durable formula, followed with modest panache. Given that Britain usually manages to sustain at least one successful band making this kind of sound, it might as well be Thunder.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW ALBUMS: Richard Thompson's *oeuvre* badly served in a good cause; plus Spiritualized by another name

# The sincerest form of flattening

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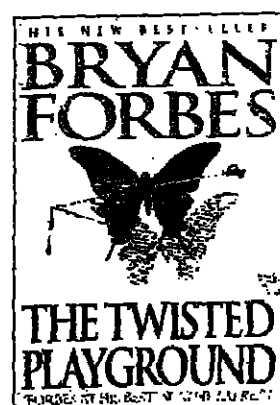
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## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Good News From The Next World..... Simple Minds (Virgin)
- 2 The Colour Of My Love..... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 3 Carry On Up The Charts..... Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
- 4 Dummy..... Portishead (Go! Discs)
- 5 Pulp Fiction — Original Soundtrack..... Various (MCA)
- 6 Always & Forever..... Eternal (EMI)
- 7 Definitely Maybe..... Oasis (Creation)
- 8 Crocodile Shoes..... Jimmy Nail (East West)
- 9 Paradise..... Blur (Food)
- 10 Bizarre Fruit..... M People (Deconstruction)

Compiled by MBE

## CONCERT: Watts without volts

# As nature intended

Ezio  
Borderline, W1

SUCH was the stampede to climb aboard the "unplugged" bandwagon that its wheels have started to buckle. At this stage, then, it may no longer be a blessing that your only guitar as a live act is the intensity of your acoustic performance.

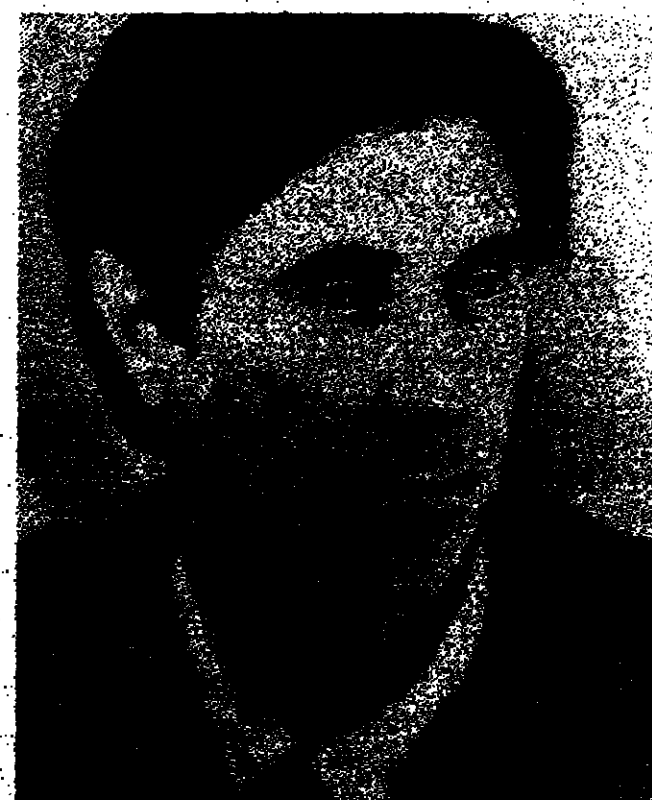
But the Cambridge-based duo Ezio are truly unplugged. Singer Ezio Lunedei and guitarist Booga's schedule of some 200 gigs a year has given them the confidence to take an audience by the scruff and make it take heed: when they do, Lunedei's lyrics weave a winding path through the emotions, his literary style sometimes conjuring up a Dylan or Van Morrison but in a world somehow more real. Lunedei and Booga fairly attack their acoustic guitars, with Latin phrasing invigilating its way into their cleverly dovetailed double act. But they

understand the value of light relief too: we were told to listen for a subliminal message at the start of "The Further We Stretch", soon to be a single. The singer crept closer than ever to the microphone and whispered: "Buy me".

The affectionate "Saxon Street" was a rousing closer and, like its fellows, has not been smothered in gadgetry on the album. *Black Boots on Latin Feet*. On the yearning "Tuesday Night", Lunedei sings: "I want you from afar/I want you the way I want a Vibrator guitar".

Matters of the heart expressed as only a passionate musician could.

PAUL SEXTON



**BRYAN FERRY**  
MAMOUNA

New single CD/cassette from January 30.  
with new Brian Eno mix - CD features exclusive live tracks



## Common land properly registered

Mid-Glamorgan County Council v Ogwr Borough Council and Others

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Browne-Wilkinson

[Speeches February 2]

Common land acquired in 1973 by a water authority under powers given to it by a private Act of Parliament for a reservoir scheme that was later abandoned had not been deprived of its status as a common. Although payment of compensation to the commoners had extinguished their individual rights over the land, none of the powers conferred by the private Act operated to extinguish the rights of access enjoyed by the general public. Thus the land had been properly registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and the provisions of section 36 of the Commons Act 1876 prohibiting enclosure applied requiring that the land remain open.

The House of Lords held allowing in part an appeal by commoners asserting to have individual rights over Coity Wallia commons from the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neave, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Hoffmann) (The Times November 8, 1993; 1993 2 LGR 244) that had allowed an appeal from Judge Moseley, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division.

The Court of Appeal, holding in favour of Ogwr Borough Council and Bridgend Golf Club Ltd, two of the defendants to an originating summons seeking directions brought by the commons registration authority, Mid-Glamorgan County Council, had declared that land farming within the commons had ceased to be common land and that a vesting deed dated January 16, 1973 had been effective to vest the land free of all commonable rights in the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board.

Their Lordships upheld the Court of Appeal's decision that the water board when negotiating payment of compensation with a commons' committee had correctly applied the code laid down in Schedule 4 to the Compulsory Purchase Act 1963 thereby obtaining the required consent under section 5 of that Act for the service

of a notice to treat on each commoner.

Miss Sheila Cameron, QC and Mr Frank Hinks for the commons; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr Robin Campbell for Ogwr Borough Council; Bridgend Golf Club Ltd and Mid-Glamorgan County Council did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JAUNCEY said that the appeal arose out of the compulsory purchase of a small part of common land for a purpose which was abandoned before commencement. The purpose was the construction of a reservoir on an area of 174 acres of which the compulsory acquisition was authorised by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Act 1968.

The commons were waste lands of the Manor of Coity Wallia. In 1970 the water board, in pursuance of its powers under the Act, had agreed to purchase the land from the lord of the manor subject to the rights of common for £9,515.

Involving the procedure in Schedule 4 to the Compulsory Purchase Act 1963 they had convened a meeting of commoners which had elected a committee of five which in October 1970 had agreed compensation for commons' rights at £5,169. By March 1972 the water board had abandoned the reservoir project.

On January 16, 1973 the water board had paid the agreed compensation and had dated a vesting deed previously held by them in escrow whereby they took the land free from "all commonable and other rights".

In 1974, planning permission having been obtained, the land was conveyed to Ogwr Borough Council who, having a bona fide land farming scheme, had ceased to be common land and that a vesting deed dated January 16, 1973 had been effective to vest the land free of all commonable rights in the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board.

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On January 16, 1973 the water board had paid the agreed compensation and had dated a vesting deed previously held by them in escrow whereby they took the land free from "all commonable and other rights".

In 1974, planning permission having been obtained, the land was conveyed to Ogwr Borough Council who, having a bona fide land farming scheme, had ceased to be common land and that a vesting deed dated January 16, 1973 had been effective to vest the land free of all commonable rights in the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board.

Their Lordships upheld the Court of Appeal's decision that the water board when negotiating payment of compensation with a commons' committee had correctly applied the code laid down in Schedule 4 to the Compulsory Purchase Act 1963 thereby obtaining the required consent under section 5 of that Act for the service

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## When accused surrenders to court

Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Guey

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Gibson and Sir Michael Mann [Judgment February 1]

A defendant who was on bail and under a duty to surrender to the custody of the court did so, at the latest, when he was arraigned at the commencement of his trial.

Where, therefore, a defendant had fled the jurisdiction after he had been arraigned his surety could not be required to forfeit his recognisance or any part of it.

The Court of Appeal said the Master of the Rolls dissenting, allowing an appeal by Mr Ramadan Guey, a surety for Mr Asil Nadir, from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Stirling and Mr Justice Goff, 1994; 1994 1 WLR 438, which had refused his application for judicial review of Mr Justice Tucker's decision requiring him to forfeit the sum of £650,000 of his recognisance entered into in the sum of £1 million).

In December 1990 Mr Nadir had been charged with various offences and was admitted to bail. In January 1991 Mr Guey entered into his recognisance as a surety.

In February 1992 the charges were transferred to the Central Criminal Court under the special procedure introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1987 and a preliminary hearing was held at that court where the judge fixed the preparatory hearing date for June 22.

That hearing was held at Chichester Rents where there were no cells, custody area or dock. In accordance with section 8(2) of the 1987 Act arraignments took place there and the judge asked the defendant to stand up, in the place where he had been sitting, and pleaded to the charges. Pleas of not guilty were entered and thereafter he resumed his seat and the hearing continued.

There was no mention of Mr Nadir's position with regard to bail or custody, except that counsel for Mr Nadir and the Serious Fraud Office agreed that it was unnecessary for him to surrender to the custody of the court on that occasion, because, if he did so, the court would have to consider the terms of any further bail before he could be released.

Mr Edmund Lawson QC and Mr Russell Houston for the applicant; Mr Robert Owen QC and Mr David Calvert-Smith for the Serious Fraud Office.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that both sides had canvassed two main questions: 1 Whether Mr Nadir surrendered to the custody of the court on June 22.

Mr Lawson argued that he did. He had attended court on that day because it had been made clear to him, by some means unknown to Mr Guey, that he had to. There was no evidence of any set procedure for surrender at Chichester Rents, but he had made himself available to the court. It was commonplace for surrender to be

an informal procedure: see DPP v Richards (1989) QB 701. Custody did not necessarily involve any element of physical constraint.

Mr Owen argued that Mr Nadir had not surrendered to custody on June 22. Mere attendance at court on the trial date did not, without more, amount to surrender.

A defendant surrendered to the custody of the court when (i) he was present at court, (ii) there was a requirement that he surrender to custody, (iii) that requirement was communicated to him by or on behalf of the court, and (iv) he complied with that requirement.

In such a case no purpose was served by treating arraignment as a surrender to custody and it was not the practice on such occasions for the whole question of bail to be re-opened.

In some cases the defendant was arraigned in order that pleas might be taken, with no prospect of an immediate trial if not guilty pleas were entered.

In such a case no purpose was served by treating arraignment as a surrender to custody and it was not the practice on such occasions for the whole question of bail to be re-opened.

In the present case it was well known that no jury would be empanelled for months; no prejudice was caused by allowing the existing bail arrangements to continue and any other course would have caused inconvenience.

Plainly the judge had not intended to require Mr Nadir to surrender or believe that he had done so. If the judge did not require surrender, who did and when and how?

Mr Guey could not proffer any answer to those questions, and the absence of an answer was fatal to the argument. His Lordship agreed with the Divisional Court.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON, disagreeing, said that although nothing was said directly to Mr Nadir in February 1992 when the judge fixed the preparatory hearing date, given that thereby the judge was fixing the commencement date of the trial which would begin with arraignment requiring Mr Nadir's presence, it was implicit in his order that he required Mr Nadir's presence on June 22.

It was apparent that Mr Nadir understood that requirement because he was present before the judge on that day.

The meaning of custody was not elucidated by any statutory provision, but it was common ground that physical custody was not a requirement. However, to be in custody the defendant had to be in a position where he was no longer free to come and go as he pleased, but had to have the court's leave to depart.

There could be no doubt that on June 22 the trial commenced in fact and in law. That was the express effect of section 8 of the 1987 Act, that where the judge ordered a preparatory hearing the trial began with that hearing and arraignment took place at the start of that hearing.

The preliminary stage of criminal proceedings ended with arraignment. Thereafter the further detention in custody of or the granting of bail to the defendant lay solely within the power and discretion of the trial judge.

Here Mr Nadir had obeyed the judge's request expressly for the purpose of the arraignment, to stand up, and in response to a question from the clerk of the court how he pleaded in respect of each count, answered "Not guilty".

In his Lordship's judgment a surrender to custody occurred when a defendant on bail and under a duty to surrender was required to attend court and responded by attending and overtly subjecting himself to the directions of the court. That he did at the latest when he was arraigned at the commencement of the trial, but he might do so earlier: see DPP v Richards (1989) QB 701.

The matter might be tested by asking what would have happened if in the course of the arraignment Mr Nadir had tried to walk out of the court. His Lordship referred to the Divisional Court's view that in that event he would immediately have been required by the court to surrender to custody.

In his Lordship's view that was an acceptance of the fact not merely that the court had power to restrain him from leaving, but also that so to leave would frustrate the purpose why the court wanted him there.

The more natural inference was that the court's power to restrain him arose from his already being in the court's custody from the moment the trial started.

It would be productive of even more uncertainty as to when a surrender took place if a trial could commence with the arraignment and yet the defendant not be in the court's custody.

The fact that here the main hearing was not to follow immediately after the arraignment should not affect the answer to the question whether a surrender had occurred. The same answer should apply whether the arraignment took place immediately before an overnight adjournment or even an adjournment for lunch.

From the commencement of a trial it was for the court conducting the trial to decide whether the defendant should be in custody or on bail. Nor would it be right that the question be answered by a poll of what interested parties thought.

His Lordship accordingly would hold that Mr Nadir had surrendered to the custody of the court on June 22 and that Mr Guey's obligation as surety thereby ended. He would allow the appeal.

Sir Michael Mann agreed with Lord Justice Peter Gibson. Solicitors: Kaim Todner, Walworth; Serious Fraud Office.

## Foetus is no person

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Dada

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Hoffmann [Judgment January 26]

A child en ventre sa mère was not a "person who might reasonably be expected to live with" the mother for the purposes of section 75 of the Housing Act 1985.

Accordingly, a housing authority performing its duty under section 65 of the 1985 Act to secure that accommodation became available for a homeless pregnant woman was not required to take account of the unborn child when considering the suitability of the accommodation offered.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the housing authority, Newham London Borough Council, against an order of certiorari made by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC (The Times July 29, 1994), sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, quashing Newham's decision to treat as unreasonable the refusal of the applicant, Mrs Janet Dada, of the offer of one bedroomed accommodation to herself and her husband. A cross appeal by the applicant on another point was dismissed.

Section 75 of the 1985 Act provided: "... accommodation shall be regarded as available for a person's occupation only if it is available for occupation both by him and by any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him."

Mr David Matthias and Mr Steven Woolf for Newham; Mr Christian Moll for Mrs Dada.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the appeal related to the duties of housing authorities under Part III of the 1985 Act, which dealt with housing the homeless. It raised a question not subject to a decision of the courts until the instant case.

The first and main question at issue was: in the case of a homeless applicant who was pregnant, was the unborn child a "person who might reasonably be expected to live with" the applicant? The question narrowed down was: was an unborn child a "person"?

The judge had held that as a matter of law the answer to that question was in the affirmative and that the council had not complied with its duty under section 65 of the 1985 Act.

The council accepted that its obligation under section 65 was not merely to secure accommodation but to secure accommodation which was reasonably suitable to the particular applicant: see R v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Islam (Tafazzul) (1983) 1 AC 889.

As the judge had said, the ordinary and natural meaning of the word "person" was a living person. Within the context of Part III of the 1985 Act, his Lordship could find nothing which undermined that interpretation of the word in section 75 as its ordinary and natural meaning. It was to be given the meaning of a person who was alive when the offer of accommodation was made.

His Lordship would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Hoffmann agreed. Solicitors: Mr Dennis Smith, East Ham; Irving Brown & Daughters, East Ham.

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## Wales make case for World Cup reckoning

By Christopher Irvine

THE rugby league World Cup in October no longer looks likely to be a three-cornered fight between Australia, England and New Zealand. What price now a resurgent Wales after they ended an 18-year losing habit against England on Wednesday, or even Western Samoa?

It is a pity that they are in the same group and that the winners are likely to encounter Australia in the semi-finals. They have benefited from the relaxation of player qualification rules and pose an obvious threat to the established order.

In Western Samoa's case, Va'aiga Tuigamala and John Schuster, the former All Blacks, and Graham Lowe, a former New Zealand coach, have joined a formidable squad. For Wales, the changes have brought five Anglo-Welshmen and a renewed strength that, allied to their unquenchable spirit, carried them to an 18-16 victory over England at Ninian Park, Cardiff, after they had retrieved an eight-point deficit in a whirlwind last 15 minutes.

Backs were never really the problem for Wales, who are now favourites to win the inaugural John Smith's European championship. Now they possess a pack to go with them, as well as hope for the future, with Scott Gibbs to return from injury and Scott Quinnell to bring in.

The newcomers, including Eyres, Skerrett and Hall, eased the burden on Jonathan Davies and helped him to excel. Alongside a revitalised Kevin Ellis, the scorer of both tries, the half-back pair revelled in the room allowed by England. It was the high point of four years of peaks and troughs since the national side was resurrected in 1991, although a crowd of just over 6,000 is a measure of the work to be done.

The revived triangular tournament with France might struggle for public recognition, but that is not to underestimate its importance. Having three England players in Australia with the Great Britain squad for the world sevens was a clear case of misplaced priorities.

Perhaps when they require it least, against France at Gateshead on Wednesday week, England should be nearer full strength. Paul Newlove, Jason Robinson and Richard Russell may have recovered sufficiently from the injuries that turned the England dressing-room into a casualty ward.

## Futuristic view of Super Bowl

Super Bowl XXIX — like monarchs and dates of movies, these contests are accorded roman numerals — happened on Sunday evening. A great multitude of people, eating ice cream and hot dogs, sipping beer, colas and bourbon were dressed in coats of many colours, wore hats bearing optimistic messages. The noise was intense as piped music vied with raised voices punctuated by hoots of joy and despair ... and this was just in the basement of the Equitable Building on 7th Avenue in mid-Manhattan, New York, where Société Générale held their Football Option Market, one of the most desirable parties of the year.

"Freud," I said to the woman at the registration desk. Computers whirled, heads shook. "What company?"

"I'm not a member of a company," this is considered quite shameful in corporate America and the woman gave me a cool look. "Do you have an invitation?" I did. I gave it to her. The computer identified me as the London Times and I was of the in-crowd: was given a badge number 1273 and a purple dustjacket and registration smiled, told me to be sure and have a good time.

I asked if I might have a green jacket instead, was about to explain about purple and me, but purple meant press. Green was an associate company, blue for clients and hosts, red for advisors; general dealers wore orange; dealers in futures, turquoise; dealers in options, red and white. A very black nurse wore a very white housecoat around her 72in bust and watched impassively as the 600 guests mingled in the atrium, paced themselves for the feast to come on canapés of smoked salmon, cheese and cucumber.

In the basement, there is a theatre: two large screens behind a deep pit for dealers with an enclosure for referees stage right; seating is for several hundred ... though few sat.

We had a dissertation on how the game might go by football luminaries, including Mr Walter Payton, and a Soc Gen strategic guru opined on how to convert this knowledge into dealing: in futures, writing calls, buying puts, hedging, availing yourself of out-of-the-money options.

We were told of penalties: guests had a notional thousand dollars with which to play and when they were in a negative-equity situation, they could decide whether to stop playing, or get out of trouble by trading some more — which involves fierce penalties. The compliance department monitors the situation.

There were three levels of censure: a warning; trading



Debris in the trading pit indicates the intense activity as experts comment on the action in Miami

restrictions when the debt balance becomes more severe; blow-out and disqualification if the loss is \$30,000.

Nobody asked whether we understood. We were bankers and traders and dealers and the journalists were financial journalists; 2,631 sports journalists had been registered at the game in Miami.

The futures market, the guru announced, would open at 6pm; shut down at 6.05 for the national anthem, then reopen. No trading during half-time ... and listen guys, trying to blow lights out is poor strategy.

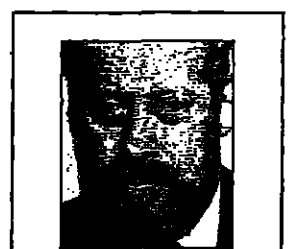
Some guys around me nodded, so I nodded.

At 6pm, they said "five, four, three, two, one" and all hell was let loose: a score of dealers started to shout prices and a couple of hundred traders sought to catch their attention. On the edges of the television screens which showed the players from Miami being introduced to the crowd, there were the futures buy and sell prices: 118 and 119 — meaning you could sell the Chargers at the lower figure, buy the 49ers at the higher.

Bookmakers are illegal, in

the United States outside Las Vegas: there, Nick the Greek was quoting the San Francisco team hot favourites: bet \$10 to win one.

I thought the favourites would win, but Super Bowl being the all-time important event it is, I also believed that once they were significantly



ahead and the game was safe, they would stop trying to score, prepare for celebration, waste time rather than rub in their advantage.

The 49ers scored twice in the opening minutes and futures rose to 126-128. Amid the wall to wall mega-bedlam on the trading floor beneath the

screens, it was hard to follow the action, but I found a red-coated advisor, sent him to sell me 1,000 contracts at 26 or better.

One thousand? Yes. He went away and I approached two more red-coats and requested them to deal similarly. I tried to trade myself, but never got within five yards, so I found others in the right coloured jackets to execute contracts until the Chargers scored: later, when San Francisco increased their lead, I traded some more.

Just after the first quarter, a list of numbers appeared on the screen and 1273 was at the top: it was the first time since the Parliamentary election of 1983 that I have headed any list.

Pride comes before a fall. The list was in respect of people in penalty. I was requested to see the referee, which I did.

My 16 deals effected by a rumble collection of red-coated advisors had been collected by computer and, after 18 minutes of play, had put me \$93,500 into the red: \$95,000 in penalties. \$1,500 notional profit on my options. The referee

looked perplexed, took the advice of another referee who used words like par puts, straddles, interest rate derivatives, time-decay factor, arbitrage. I explained that I had come a long way for this party. They explained that on the floor above there was underdone roast beef and many baked meats on skewers.

"You," said my eldest son who works for Société Générale in New York and had been instrumental in securing my invitation, "are the victim of your aggressive investment policy."

So I went back to my hotel and watched the second half of the Super Bowl on a screen unimpeded by multicoloured coated hand-waving screaming dealers.

On Monday morning, my son telephoned to say that I had won a prize. As a gesture of friendship, the Société had decided to ignore penalties and my \$10,000 profit — the Chargers scored a late touchdown while the 49ers were not looking — had placed me second among the purple coats. Now I have a football signed by many people I do not know.

## Lawrie soon moves into top gear

LESS than three months after undergoing surgery on his right knee, Paul Lawrie, of Scotland, moved into a share of second place on the opening day of the Madeira Island Open golf championship yesterday. A round of 68, four under par, left Lawrie, 26, a stroke behind Santiago Luna, of Spain, his playing partner, at the Campo de Golfe course.

Lawrie recorded four successive birdies after reaching the turn in a level-par 36 and would have matched Luna's score but for three-putting the final green. Luna, 32, who has never finished higher than fourth on the European Tour since turning professional in 1982, began his round by three-putting. Seven birdies followed, however, and he described his performance as "fantastic".

## Cup jury still out

YACHTING: The America's Cup jury was still considering the thorny question of the heavily-modified Japanese contender, *Nippon 94*, last night (Barry Pickthall writes). It is claimed that changes to the hull, which have included a new bow and stern, and a refitting of the yacht's centre sections, violate the two-boat rule.

If the Japanese lose their case, either their existing race boat or the new one being shipped to San Diego would be illegal and the team could forfeit the points earned during the first two rounds. If they win, other teams will be cleared to make extensive modifications to their boats, defeating the intent of the two-boat limit on each syndicate.

## Drakes hoves in

CRICKET: Sussex have confirmed the signing of Vaseb Drakes, the West Indian all-rounder, on a two-year contract. Drakes, 25, will replace Franklyn Stephenson, his fellow Barbadian, from the 1996 season. Drakes earned his contract by his performances for Sussex in the second XI championship last season, when he took 65 wickets at an average of 17.69 and scored 751 runs.

□ Mike Hendrick, the former England bowler, has been appointed Ireland's first full-time national coach. He will take up his duties on March 1, initially for six months.

## Finns dance into lead

ICE SKATING: Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, of Finland, led after the original programme of the ice dance event at the European figure skating championships in Dortmund yesterday. Rahkamo and Kokko, who train in Germany, took a narrow advantage over Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy, of France, who were in front after Tuesday's compulsory dances. Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, of Russia, are third. The final 50 per cent of the competition will be determined today with the winners of the free programme virtually assured of the gold medal.

## Foreman ignores WBA

BOXING: George Foreman, the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion, has ignored the WBA's threat to strip him of his title and will go ahead with his defence against Axel Schulz, of Germany, on April 22. "You have my absolute assurance he won't change his mind," Bob Arum, Foreman's promoter, said. The WBA last week voted unanimously against the contest because the unrated Axel is not the highest-ranked contender available.

## Poor return for Daly

GOLF: John Daly, returning after a four-month absence from the United States Tour, lost any chance of victory in the Heineken Classic at Perth, Australia, yesterday when he recorded a first-round 80. With six bogeys and two double-bogeys, the American was 14 shots off the pace. "I tried hard all the way," he said. "I just want to be allowed to get on with my life and hopefully play some good golf this year." Greg Chalmers, of Australia, and Perry Moss, of the United States, were joint-leaders, on 66.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Cantona victim of game where reason evaporates on field

From Mr A. D. Harkavy

Sir, I have long subscribed to the view that football is, in the main, run by, played by and watched by thugs; but only in a temporal sense. Why, for instance, should an apparently respectable middle-class professional like me metamorphose from Dr Jekyll to Mr Hyde when watching a soccer team that I support. I shout, I swear, I berate the referee and linesmen for objectively sound decisions. I become a thug.

Nor am I alone amongst my peers — doctors, politicians, accountants, even judges. And so are directors of a club tugging when their reason evaporates confronted by available riches. Just like players — charming off the field — whose reason evaporates on it.

Is not Eric Cantona the helpless victim of the game itself and are not the authorities' protestations of anger a

pathetic attempt to pretend the innocence of a guilty sport? What is it about football?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY D. HARKAVY,  
Harkavys (Solicitors),  
1-4 Vigo Street, W1.

From Dr Benny J. Peiser

Sir, Is there a wise and just solution in the case of Eric Cantona? I do not believe that a national ban will really solve this particular case (or, indeed, any other case of violent conduct by a football player) unless it is directly linked with additional therapeutic measures — ie, trying to help notoriously aggressive players to change their behavioural patterns.

The dual perspective is common in criminal law. Its implementation by the Football Association would be of particular importance, since the handling of Cantona's case will set a precedent.

The following recommendations, in addition to the ban for the rest of the season, might help to establish reasonable and commonsense procedures:

1. He should be allowed to play in the United Kingdom again only under the condition that he accepts to undertake psychological assessment from trained and accredited psychologists or counsellors and that he accepts their recommendation for ongoing therapy and supervision.

2. He should be allowed to play in the United Kingdom only under probation. He should be given a written caution by the FA that in case of any further act of grave misconduct he will be banned from playing in the United Kingdom for life.

3. This procedure should be applied to any other professional or amateur football player who demonstrates

identifiable patterns of overtly aggressive/dangerous play.

Yours faithfully,  
BENNY PEISER,  
School of Human Sciences,  
Liverpool John Moores University,  
Mountford Building,  
Byrom Street,  
Liverpool 3.

From Mr Tim Bower

Sir, Whilst not condoning the actions of Eric Cantona, I wonder how many of us would week in, week out tolerate the incessant flood of abuse and foul language that is aimed at footballers from those on the terraces purporting to support the game. Surely there is a case for the football authorities and the various police forces to enforce the law regarding obscene language.

Yours etc.,  
TIM BOWER,  
18 Portland Road,  
Bromley, Kent.

positive to a wide range of prohibited substances — the five per cent compared to the domestic figure of 0.3 per cent.

The Jockey Club's anti-doping rules are tough, but the verdict must be that they work.

Yours etc.,  
ROBERT L. SMITH,  
Chairman, European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee, St Mary's Hospital Medical School,  
Norfolk Place, W2.

### Old school ties

From Mr Michael F. Dean  
Sir, James Male (article, February 1) is an Old Radleian, not an Old Marlburian. An unfortunate oversight, but I am reasonably sure of my facts having been there at the time. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL F. DEAN,  
6 The Shrubbery,  
Radley College,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

### Cricket should invest for fun

From Mr Kenneth B. Ohlson

Sir, Whilst agreeing totally with my good friend, Mr Raman Subba Row (Sports Letters, January 26) that, in pursuit of excellence, there is an urgent need to restructure the organisation of cricket back to the grass roots, it should not be forgotten that the vast majority play for enjoyment and relaxation, with the hope of playing for their country, let alone their country, but a pipedream.

Thirty years ago, league cricket was introduced to the South with the prime object of providing a channel through which good cricketers could find their way into the county side. Many have had the desire and a few have succeeded. Certainly, it has altered the atmosphere in which club cricket is played.

There has never been any point unless it is "to win". Now it seems to be "whatever the price" and the less attractive features of the first-class game — sledging and abusing the

umpires, to name but two — have crept into the Saturday afternoon's entertainment and many good club players, when the time comes for them to drop down to a lower side, go off to a village side or dig the garden rather than give a lead to the young members in the junior teams, which are also structured into leagues.

With most schools finding it difficult to teach cricket, the load is falling on the clubs and, without these senior players, there is a problem. Perhaps the money to which Mr Subba Row refers should be spent on indoor cricket centres with professional coaches running schemes for the young, teaching them not only the skills but instilling into them what a joy cricket can be, so that, as they progress, they can bring back fun into the greatest of all team games.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH B. OHLSON,  
President, Sutton Cricket Club,  
Sawyers,  
Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

### Controlled crowd

From Mr Andrew Sykes

Sir, Mr M. Horah (Sports Letters, January 26) hypothesises that the high degree of courage and physical commitment in rugby leads to a mutual respect between both sets of spectators and thereby a diminution of ill-feeling relative to football and cricket.

This idea does not really explain why, prior to the mid-1980s, there was little hooliganism at football or cricket and I would take issue with him over the degree of physical courage required by a batsman facing short-pitched hostile bowling from such bowlers as Lillee and Thompson or Holding and Roberts, which must be of the highest order.

I would suggest, therefore, that the reasons for the differences are a combination of the nature and disciplines required to play rugby, but all

ied to this must be taken into account the fact that rugby crowds are made up of an older cross-section of society who, by and large, have been associated with the game either as players or administrators. Compare this to the disappearance of the "family unit" from the football terraces during the Sixties. Inevitably, this leads to a diminution of the moderating effect of more mature adults on the younger supporters around them.

The congregation of large numbers of young, partisan and sometimes inebriate spectators at cricket grounds is also becoming more of a problem for that game and means of reducing this behaviour must be found if cricket is not also to suffer as football has in the past.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW SYKES,  
Harrow Elm House, Hatherop,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

### Free of menace

From Professor R. L. Smith

Sir, In 1991 I was approached by the racing authorities for France, Ireland and Britain to chair a new European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSCLC), whose main remit was to seek convergence and harmonisation of anti-doping procedures used in the three countries. Out of these discussions emerged 39 recommendations to the Stewards and all have been or are in the process of being implemented.

One recommendation was for Britain to move in line with France and Ireland and introduce a policy of mandatory counter-analysis. This was implemented from January 2.

In general, the implementation of the EHSCLC recommendations is leading to a more level playing-field between the three countries and the racing industry and public at large should be reassured that major progress has been made.

The assertion in articles by Julian Muscat and Richard Evans (January 5 and 9) that drugs do not and should not deteriorate in biological samples when stored files in the face of experience. Many drugs do deteriorate in storage, even at very low temperatures, for reasons that are poorly understood. Critical times may be freezing and thawing, when the water present is in crystalline ice form and unusual concentrations of materials and unusual physico-chemical and chemical conditions may occur.

Such deterioration is less important when mandatory counter-analysis requires a straightforward qualitative analysis — ie, is the drug present or not? However, possible deterioration becomes of obvious importance when the analysis is quantitative.

The articles also raise analogies with human fluid specimens, but human and equine urine samples are like chalk and cheese. Equine urines can be heavy and turbid, containing much sediment and, on occasion, with a consistency more like treacle than urine.

It is a pity in all of this that your writers do not put over the most important message: British racing is largely free of the doping menace — and has been for many years despite occasional sensational claims. Statistics for the past year showed only 20 cases of prohibited substance out of over 7,000 horse samples tested. Moreover, the majority of these positives had innocent explanations.

The Horseracing Forensic Laboratory (HFL) is highly competent in detecting prohibited substances. One of the main reasons is a comparison of the incidence of domestic positives with those found in samples tested by HFL from overseas. Out of 8,000 overseas samples, 365 proved to be

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# Charmer with something funny about him

What, pray, to do with Rowan Atkinson? Yes, it's a tricky one. On the one hand, you see, there is *Mr Bean*, which always brings something slow, lingering and extremely painful to mind. Then I remember what he almost did to *Four Weddings*... and I think why drag it out? Off with his head. But then *Blackadder* comes back to me and I have to think again. Before long a distant memory that he might once have been quite funny in *Not the Nine O'Clock News* surfaces and I'm almost smiling. Then I remember Mr Bean with his head stuck up a turkey's bottom and I'm back sharpening the axe.

In short, I am at a loss about Mr Atkinson. Given that most people appear at a similar loss about *Heroes and Villains* (BBC 1), the idea of bringing the two together to tell the life story of Sir Henry Birkin, the 1920s motoring ace,

was a truly terrifying one.

Since Jennifer Saunders's first foray last week, pages have been filled with theories as to what precisely is wrong with *Heroes and Villains*. What my own comes down to is that, having taken the decision to spend a lot of BBC money on historical authenticity (yes, Mr Yentob, that's right—half a dozen vintage Bentleys, two classic yachts, a banked race track and, ooh, shall we say one modest stately home) it is a mistake to cast a comedian in the central role. The authenticity may be high, but credibility's gone for a Burton instantly. So it was with sinking heart that I sat down to watch what appeared to be Captain Blackadder meets the man from Barclaycard driving very fast through East Anglia.

Now, Atkinson and Kit Hesketh-Devereaux, who dramatised the story of Sir Henry, have been doing this sort of *Boy's Own* stuff for

years. They could do it in their sleep and, on this evidence, quite possibly did. You know the sort of thing—one minute a chap's banging on about "courting unexpected disaster" and "living in the shadow of death" the next minute it's all about eggs: "I like me well scrambled—with lots of pepper". As for women, a quick "what a stunner" and "a-a-a-her" generally does the job. Except, of course, when it comes to big moments such as wives leaving husbands, when a winsome "I don't think she ever liked Norfolk" may be needed.

Familiar it all undoubtedly was, but helped by actors of the quality of Geoffrey Palmer as Sir Stanley Birkin, and Gavin Richards as W.O. Bentley, not a wholly enjoyable experience. Atkinson even managed to give the older Sir Henry a certain charm, before whisky and self-pity rather

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

unexpectedly took over. But, just like last week, I could have done with less of the slapstick, less of the *Sub-Carry On* innuendo and much more of what was clearly a cracking tale.

Earlier, Jeremy Clarkson had got what was destined to become a *Boy's Own* Paper evening off to a suitably noisy start with his *Motorworld* (BBC 2). This was the big one—Italy, and Clarkson was

excited, very excited. True, he tried to pretend otherwise for a little while. He engaged professors of sociology in a little macho banter about the mysteries of Italian driving. Seabites, agreed the professor, were very important—"theoretically". Clarkson, even parted company with his beloved denims to go to see the man who owns everything from Fiat to Ferrari because, as he memorably put it: "If you want to know about Italy, get suited up and go and see Gianni Agnelli". But this, we knew, was foreplay.

There was only one reason Clarkson had come to Italy. "America gave us the muscle car, Britain gave us the sports car, but Italy is home to the super car." Of course, he'd come to drive fast cars, "to burn rubber". The big question was how long would he last before lapsing into the sexist simile that made the last series of *Top Gear* such an extraordinary experience.

Well, 22 minutes to be precise. It was the Bugatti that got him going—"12 cylinders, four camshafts, 60 valves, four turbochargers" he chanted rhythmically, his brow slowly starting to glisten. But it was the Lamborghini that finished him off. "This car is fast," he chuckled, "like no other." The grin widened uncontrollably. "It's brutal." Suddenly the moment of simile arrived. "It's a 5.7 litre vibrator," he shouted. Definitely one for the collector's book.

He spent the rest of the programme driving around in a Ferrari and a post-gasmic glow, muttering sweet nothings about "motoring perfection". Too much male hormone, I expect, too much of that testosterone stuff.

Anyone seeking an alternative from this overdose of machismo was in for a tough time. For over on ITV there

was cricket in the shape of *Outside Edge*, a world where men are line managers or something in soft furnishings and women make the tea. Thankfully, it's also rather funny—in that grown-up, gently-amusing sort of way.

Roger Dervish (brilliantly played by Robert Daws) is the stuff of cricketing nightmares, a man whose motto is "think not what your cricket club can do for you, but what you can do for your cricket club". But unlike other comic sporting creations, such as Gordon Brittas, Dervish remains a human being. You can always just about see why the saintly Mim (Brenda Blethyn) not only married him, but sticks with him. The same cannot quite be said of Kevin and Maggie Josie Lawrence, but anything that helps Timothy Spall to recover from *Nice Day at the Office* must be a good thing.

Lynne Truss is on holiday

### BBC1

- 5.40 Spirit of Islam (i) (Ceefax) (s) (7020135)  
6.00 Business Breakfast (11661)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6208628)  
8.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7500628) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine (s) (8142864)  
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1485154) 12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (2611736) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7593088)  
1.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (14809)  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (82511135) 1.50 Timekeepers. Quiz show (s) (82519851)  
2.15 Sport on Friday featuring action from the European figure skating championships in Dortmund, Germany, and a preview of tomorrow's rugby union five nations' championship matches. Continues on BBC2 (s) (8332964)  
3.00 Holiday. Reports from the Lake District, an Arizona dude ranch, a single mother with her three children in Menorca and on working holidays (i). (Ceefax) (s) (8574)  
3.30 Barney Bear Double Bill (5948222) 3.45 Bites (s) (994377) 4.00 Jeopardy. Sardi Toksvig with Tril Trouble, one of the Tales from the Norse's Mouth (s) (4816951) 4.10 Rugrats (s) (4514357) 4.25 The Borrowers (i). (Ceefax) (s) (8534880)  
4.50 Newsround Extra. Paul Welsh reports on the thousands of children who are fighting in armies around the world (7426048) 5.10 Grange Hill. (Ceefax) (s) (9191828)  
5.35 Neighbours (i). (Ceefax) (s) (274777)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (96)  
6.30 Regional news magazines (48)  
7.00 Wipeout. Game show. (Ceefax) (s) (1883)  
7.30 Tomorrow's World. (Ceefax) (s) (32)  
8.00 Only Fools and Horses (i). (Ceefax) (7203)  
8.30 Health and Efficiency. Hospital comedy starring Gary Olsen. (Ceefax) (s) (6336)  
9.00 A Broadcast by the leader of the Liberal Democrats (181715)  
9.05 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (55845)  
9.35 Dangerfield. (Ceefax) (s) (787338)  
Sean Connery investigates murders (10.25pm)  
10.25 FILM: The Name of the Rose (1986) starring Sean Connery, F. Murray Abraham and Christian Slater. Thriller about a 13th-century monk investigating murders in an Italian monastery. Directed by Jean-Jacques Escoffier. (Ceefax) (6847684) Wales: All Our Lives 10.50 Film: The Name of the Rose 12.55 European Figure Skating Championships 1.45-3.15 Bill Joel in Concert  
12.30am European Figure Skating Championships from Dortmund (2672443)  
1.20 Billy Joel in Concert—River of Dreams. The singer recorded in Frankfurt (477013)  
2.50 Weather (3768704)

### BBC2

- 7.00 Noddy (i) (s) (2840989) 7.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant (i). (Ceefax) (s) (3884628) 7.35 Blue Peter (i). (Ceefax) (s) (2244116)  
8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7992680) 8.15 The Record (7410425)  
8.35 Year of the Crane. A wildlife film from the marshlands of Finland (i) (8297574)  
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2549425) 2.00 Johnson and Friends (28655406)  
2.10 Open View (i) (4104898)  
2.15 Milestones in Science and Engineering. The cathode ray tube (2817241)  
2.30 Flamingowatch. The first of the day's two live reports from the Riff Valley (s) (9443360)  
2.45 Miss-Takes. A look at some actors and reporters "coping with a crisis" as the camera rolls (944845)  
3.00 News and weather followed by Sport on Friday continued from BBC1 (s) (3608)  
4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (61)  
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (45)  
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (s) (4451195)  
5.45 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (i). (Ceefax) (266989)  
6.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). Vintage detective series (i) (Ceefax) (183883)  
7.00 Flamingowatch (s) (734845)  
7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music (s) (771628)  
7.30 Sounds of the Sides (i) (s) (74)  
8.00 Countrywomen: The Fetter Nun. (Ceefax) (s) (5845)  
8.30 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens. (Ceefax) (7580)  
9.00 Bottom. Comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (1628)  
9.30 The High Life. Airliner crew comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (62609)  
10.00 The Day Today (i). (Ceefax) (s) (34338)  
Peter Snow analyses the news (10.30pm)  
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (Ceefax) (352609)  
11.15 Fantasy Football League (s) (953681). Wales: Welsh Lobby 11.45 Fantasy Football League 12.15am DVB Physical Theatre's Strange Fish 1.20-3.00 Film: Diary of a Lost Girl  
11.45 DVB Physical Theatre's Strange Fish. A dance performance choreographed by Lloyd Newson (282994) 12.45am Weather (3131855)  
12.50 FILM: Diary of a Lost Girl (1992, b/w) starring Gail Patrick. A drama about a young girl's seduction leads her on the road to ruin. Directed by G.W. Pabst (902013). Ends at 2.30  
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCards  
The numbers next to each TV programme have Video PlusCards—numbers which allow you to record your favourite programmes on a Video PlusCard. These can be used with most VCRs. For more details on VideoPlus+ on BBC 2, see the Video PlusCard in the back of this issue. VideoPlus+ is a service of the BBC. All rights reserved. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the BBC. All rights reserved.

### CHOICE

- Tomorrow's World  
BBC1, 7.30pm  
The popular science magazine lifts the format of another BBC series. *Situation Vacant*, as it follows the progress of 16 candidates hoping to drive the world's first supercar, the SSC, which is designed to travel at 800 mph, is the latest project of Richard Noble, who has devoted his life to breaking the world land speed record. Up to now Noble has been his own driver. This time he is passing the job to somebody else. The 16 are whittled down to four after psychological and intelligence tests, simulated driving on a computer and competing against the clock in real cars. All of which is a far cry from an item about scientists who hope that 1,000-year-old skeletons may point the way to cures for today's diseases.  
Dangerfield  
BBC1, 9.30pm  
There are divided loyalties for GP-cum-police surgeon Dr Dangerfield (Nigel Le Vaillant) when his son (Sean Maguire) is involved in the accidental death of an unpopular local farmer. Meanwhile Dangerfield's colleague, Dr Stevens (Amanda Redman) is blaming herself for a misdiagnosis when a baby is rushed into intensive care. As tends to be the way, Don Shaws script manages to link the two plots so that the development of one affects the outcome of the other. *Dangerfield* continues to give the impression of being manufactured from elements of other police and medical dramas, but if it does not score high on originality it is a well-crafted series, with attractive locations and serviceable performances.  
Countrywomen: The Fetter Nun  
BBC2, 8.00pm  
The latest addition to the gallery of rural heroines is one of the least expected. She was born Pat Millington in a Nottinghamshire mining village and she grew up looking forward to marrying and having a family. Today she is Sister Agnes, a nun based on the small and remote Shetland Island of Fetlar. The weather is wild and life is tough in the Franciscan tradition. Sister Agnes works with nature, growing vegetables and managing a flock of sheep. She converted the barn next to her house into a chapel and when the roof needs a fresh coat of tar, Sister Agnes shins up a ladder to apply it. There is no contradiction between these manual tasks and building religious communities throughout the Shetland Islands.  
The 3,000 Mile Garden  
Channel 4, 8.00pm  
Spring has come and summer is approaching for gardeners Leslie Land in New England and Roger Phillips in London. But their gardens are separated by far more than the width of the Atlantic. Eccleston Square, which Roger tends on behalf of the surrounding residents, looks a picture. It is thrown open to visitors, and the garden is laid out in a formal style. Leslie, by contrast, is still emerging from his snowbound winter and the new growth is barely under way. Leslie and Roger continue to correspond but you feel that there is not a lot of common ground, so to speak, between them. If, however, Leslie cannot match Roger's floral display, she makes a terrific rhubarb pie. Peter Waymark

### CARLTON/LWT

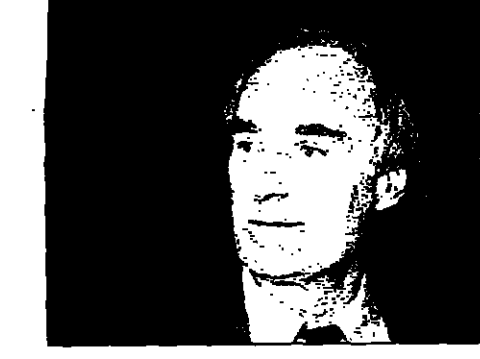
- 6.00 GMTV (1034609)  
9.25 Chain Letters presented by Ted Robbins (4387380) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2526574)  
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (4643241)  
10.35 This Morning (90787951) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1481338)  
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4300845)  
12.55 Coronation Street (i) (Teletext) (4318864)  
1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (1967390)  
1.55 The Chrystal Rose Show. Studio audience participates in frank discussions (s) (5047633)  
2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (61385809) 2.50 Take the High Road (9195970)  
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7854154)  
3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7853425)  
3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (993330) 3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon (9338845) 4.00 Zzzap! (s) (455845) 4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures (443244)  
4.40 Virtually Impossible (Teletext) (s) (5333114)  
5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (511636)  
5.40 ITN Evening News (Teletext) and weather (261338)  
6.00 Home and Away (i) (Teletext) (378135)  
6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (149845)  
7.00 Catchphrase with Roy Walker (s) (6951)  
7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (28)  
Billy Murray arrives at Sun Hill (8.00pm)  
8.00 The Bill: Expert Witness. New arrival DC Beech (Billy Murray) proves more than a match for Skase (Teletext) (2553)  
8.30 The Upper Hand: Father of the Bride. Part One. With Joe McGann and Diane Weston (Teletext) (s) (1406)  
9.00 Doctor Finlay: Only Time Will Tell. Dr Cameron is asked to give away a young patient at her wedding but family secrets threaten her future happiness (Teletext) (s) (5574)  
10.00 A Broadcast by the leader of the Liberal Democrats (463930)  
10.05 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (144319)  
10.35 FILM: Lies before Keesa (1991) The wife of a wealthy publisher finds her life thrown into turmoil when her husband is blackmailed. With Jaclyn Smith and Ben Gazzara. Directed by Lou Antonio (9185574)  
12.25am London Tonight (Teletext) (2615926)  
12.30 One to One. Disc jockey Gary Davies talks to Enya (936238)  
1.10 The James Whale Show. James Whale hosts an hour of entertainment and debate (s) (5800471)  
2.10 The Chart Show (s) (806765)  
3.05 Noley Mothers. A weekly look at the heavy metal scene (s) (462354)  
4.00 Cinema. Cinema. Latest film releases from America (7473394)  
4.35 The New Music (1811704)  
5.35 ITN Morning News (7938339)

### CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Once Upon A Time—Lits. Animated series exploring the human body (i) (8445048)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (97932)  
9.00 You Bet Your Life (i) (s) (31241)  
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (5794574) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (5722357) 10.00 Fourways Farm (577390) 10.10 Maths Everywhere (7986383) 10.25 Eurokids (293888) 10.40 Off Limits (3247864) 11.05 Schools at Work (9995533) 11.11 Time for Maths (2389057) 11.22 Stage One (2389203) 11.40 How We Used to Live (3565680)  
12.00 Profiles of Nature A documentary look at the wildlife of bogs (i) (28777)  
12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series. The guest is Little Richard (68636) 1.30 The Magic Roundabout followed by The Wombles, Paddington and Noggin the Nod (7162672)  
1.55 Bell On A Deer. Chinese animation (8251680)  
2.15 FILM: Chance Of A Lifetime (1950, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone, Bernard Miles and Kenneth More. A comedy about a group of strikers who take over the running of their factory and discover it is not as simple as it seems. Directed by Bernard Miles and Alan Odell (228357)  
4.00 Travelog. Reports from northern Sweden and Pakistan (i). (Teletext) (57)  
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (41)  
5.00 Cutting Edge: Revenge. A repeat of Monday's programme (i). (Teletext) (s) (3864)  
6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based comedy series (i). (Teletext) (s) (26)  
6.30 MovieWatch. Includes cinemagoers from Belfast reviewing the latest releases (s) (86)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (387067)  
7.50 You Don't Know Me But... A person in the news receives unsolicited advice (172533)  
Roger Phillips rallies to his roses (8.00pm)  
8.00 [REDACTED] The 3,000 Mile Garden. (Teletext) (s) (3241)  
8.30 Brookside. Mandy and Sindbad consider their options. (Teletext) (s) (9048)  
9.00 Ellen. American comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres (Teletext) (s) (6799)  
9.30 Rising Damp. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter (i) (57777)  
10.00 Roseanne. Viscerally cracking domestic comedy. (Teletext) (s) (29406)  
10.30 Jo Brand. Through the Cakeshale. The comedienne is joined by Helena Bonham-Carter (i). (Teletext) (s) (602118)  
11.05 The Word presented by Terry Christian (s) (687332)  
12.05am Beavis and Butt-head. Animated music video reviews (s) (1196704)  
12.35 FILM: Mrs Soffel (1984) starring Diane Keaton and Mel Gibson. Fact-based drama about a woman's wife who falls for a condemned prisoner. Directed by Gillian Armstrong (s) (3782723)  
2.40 FILM: The Lone Wolf Takes a Chance (1941, b/w) starring Warren William and Thurston Hall. Thriller about the murder of a female detective. Directed by Sidney Salkow (851723)



Sean Connery investigates murders (10.25pm)



Peter Snow analyses the news (10.30pm)



Sister Agnes at work on Fetlar (BBC2, 8.00pm)



Billy Murray arrives at Sun Hill (8.00pm)



Roger Phillips rallies to his roses (8.00pm)

### VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA  
As London except: 9.55am-10.00am Anglia News (262574) 12.20pm-12.30pm Anglia News (262574) 1.25pm-1.30pm The Young Doctors (262574) 2.30pm-2.35pm Wish You Were Here (262574) 3.25pm-3.30pm Anglia News (262574) 5.15pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (262574) 6.00pm-6.05pm Anglia News (262574) 6.10pm-6.15pm Anglia News (262574) 6.20pm-6.25pm Anglia News (262574) 6.30pm-6.35pm Anglia News (262574) 6.40pm-6.45pm Anglia News (262574) 6.50pm-6.55pm Anglia News (262574) 7.00pm-7.05pm Anglia News (262574) 7.10pm-7.15pm Anglia News (262574) 7.20pm-7.25pm Anglia News (262574) 7.30pm-7.35pm Anglia News (262574) 7.40pm-7.45pm Anglia News (262574) 7.50pm-7.55pm Anglia News (262574) 8.00pm-8.05pm Anglia News (262574) 8.10pm-8.15pm Anglia News (262574) 8.20pm-8.25pm Anglia News (262574) 8.30pm-8.35pm Anglia News (262574) 8.40pm-8.45pm Anglia News (262574) 8.50pm-8.55pm Anglia News (262574) 9.00pm-9.05pm Anglia News (262574) 9.10pm-9.15pm Anglia News (262574) 9.20pm-9.25pm Anglia News (262574) 9.30pm-9.35pm 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Tributes abound for sporting giant who epitomised golden age of the Thirties

## British tennis mourns Perry the legend

By DAVID MILLER

FRED PERRY, who died yesterday at the age of 85 in Melbourne, was a beacon of British sport during the golden era of the Thirties that also saw the emergence of Henry Cotton and Stanley Matthews. Perry won the Wimbledon men's singles title for three consecutive years, his victory in 1936 being the last by a British man.

He epitomised in so many ways the sporting hero: dark, debonair, confident, yet to achieve what he did, Perry had to break the social mould of his time, as did Cotton. Their professional attitude was the antithesis of the era of the gentleman amateur, which still survived then. Matthews, 80 this week, was OK — football was seen, anyway, as being the wrong side of the tracks.

In addition to his three Wimbledon titles, Perry won the US title on the grass courts of Forest Hills in 1933, 1934

Death of a champion ..... 1  
Obituary ..... 19

and 1936; the Australian, on grass, in 1934; and the French, on clay, in 1935. He led Britain to four successive Davis Cup victories, from 1933 to 1936.

On the last of those, as the celebrations wound down in a flurry of champagne, Perry and one or two others walked back to the Centre Court. There was nobody there but the groundsman, tidying up. Knowing that he was about to turn professional, that he would never play at Wimbledon again, Perry said to the others: "Let me stay here a few minutes by myself," as he gazed out across the empty court and the scene of some of his most famous moments.

Dan Maskell, the esteemed coach who helped to build Perry's game and was later to become the doyen of commentators, placed Perry fourth in his all-time top ten, behind Rod Laver, Don Budge and Bill Tilden, and ahead of Borg and McEnroe. Yet Ted Tinning, an equally shrewd observer of the game for 60 years, thought differently.

Talking one day about the greatest of all time, Tinning, who had been friend and confidant to many of them, expressed the view that while Tilden might have been the



Perry, right, after his straight-sets victory over Jack Crawford in the men's singles final at Wimbledon in 1934. It was the first of his three successive Wimbledon titles

finest player, Perry was the man, were his own life to depend upon it, who he would back.

The breakthrough for Perry had been the more difficult because of his background, so much in contrast to the upper middle-class that then dominated, and controlled, British sport. The son of a Labour MP, he had neither the financial nor the social background that unofficially were required to succeed in "lawn" tennis. Yet such was Perry's character that he overcame this disadvantage to drive hostility down the throats of those who tried to snub him.

As a teenager, looking through the fence at the elite world of tennis, he had been determined to succeed, and his

innate aggression was part of the equipment that made it possible. It was also the characteristic that added to his unpopularity with those at the top, together with his caustic, sarcastic one-liners, and his knack of exploiting any chance to gain psychological superiority. Perry, almost by definition, was unofficial chairman of the oneupmanship club.

Temperamentally, in theory as much as in practice, Perry had always changed ends and was ready to play before his opponent. Yet if these qualities equipped him to be one of the greatest, beneath that cocky exterior, which was partially a front, could be found an engaging, almost benign man, who was as friendly to non-tennis as those people of impor-

tance. If not more so, Perry did not forget his background, in which his accent and non-public school education, had penalised him. He had not forgotten the time when he had been politely asked not to return the next year for a match against Cambridge University, nor that when he received the All England Club tie signifying membership that automatically comes with winning the Wimbledon title, it was not presented to him but merely left over the back of a chair in the dressing-room.

He even heard, from inside the shower room, a senior Wimbledon official commiserating with the Australian, Jack Crawford, whose title he had taken in 1934, when he won in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5.

Beating Von Cramm in the following two years in straight sets, Perry dropped only 22 games in nine Wimbledon sets.

John Curry, chairman of the All England Club, said: "Fred Perry was a superlative ambassador for our sport throughout the world. He was a great character, big-hearted and a true champion in every sense."

"He won the affection and admiration of all those involved in tennis — the players, the fans, the media, and officials. Fred was a central figure at the championships for more than 50 years and all those involved in both the club and the championships will retain a lasting and fond memory of him."

## FREDERICK JOHN PERRY

1908: Born in Stockport on May 18.

1929: Won world singles table tennis championship.

1931: Made Davis Cup lawn tennis debut for Britain.

1933: Won first major lawn tennis singles title, the US Championship, which he won twice again before turning professional.

1935: Helped Britain to victory in the Davis Cup — a title they held until 1936 and have not won since.

1934: Won Wimbledon for the first time and retained the title for two more years.

1934: Claimed the world No 1 ranking and held it until 1936.

1936: Turned professional and made his debut at Madison Square Garden in New York.

1941: A few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he smashed his right elbow while competing at Madison Square Garden and never played seriously again.

## Full tournament honours

Wimbledon

Singles: 1934, 1935, 1936

Mixed doubles: 1935, 1936

Runner-up: Doubles: 1932

US Open

Singles: 1933, 1934, 1936

Mixed doubles: 1932

French Open

Singles: 1935

Doubles: 1933

Mixed doubles: 1932

Runner-up: Singles, 1936; mixed doubles, 1933

Australian Open

Singles: 1934

Doubles: 1934

Member of Great Britain Davis Cup team: 1931-1936

Personal details

Son of Sam Perry, a Labour MP; became a United States citizen in 1940; founded Fred Perry Sportswear in the late-Forties; his statue at Wimbledon was unveiled in 1984.

Wimbledon  
hat-trick  
his amateur  
swansong

THIS is how The Times Lawn Tennis Correspondent reported Fred Perry's third and final men's singles championship, at Wimbledon, in July 1936.

F. J. Perry yesterday won his third successive Wimbledon Championship on the Centre Court at the All England Club. He beat G. Von Cramm, of Germany, who had come through so well to his second final match by 6-1, 6-1, 6-0. Having recorded the bare facts, it is necessary to explain the cruel score of a match that must have been as depressing anti-climax for everybody and not least to the scores of people who had waited through the night to see it. In his first service game, Von Cramm pulled a muscle of the right thigh and, although the rest of the set was fairly closely fought, he was helpless for the remainder of the match against Perry's murderous drive on the forehand...

Perry is champion again... he can still improve a record that surely must stand for many years. He came to the last match with all his great strokes at their finest, the true test of a champion.

In New York on November 9 of the same year Perry announced he was turning professional, disqualifying himself from defending his championship. Our Lawn Tennis Correspondent wrote:

This time, it really is true... Perry has gone over to the growing band of professionals, who can now boast with conviction that among them are the best players in the world. Tilden, Cochet, Vines — now Perry; but Perry joins the group with proud titles, where the others waited to be beaten on the great centre courts before burning their boats. The universal reflection on a step which seems likely to cost Great Britain the Davis Cup will probably be that Perry has taken a wise decision.

After all, what player, unless he were wealthy, would forego the opportunity of making a fortune... if he had Perry's ability to earn it.

## The maestro who lit up life with joy and skill

Andrew Longmore pays tribute to a player whose simple presence touched all those who knew him

Look high and low, through every nook and cranny of the game and I guarantee you will not find anyone with a bad word to say about Fred Perry. Perry had a way with people — a bluff, jovial way that made them accept the truths he talked without malice.

Fred could breeze through a room, drop a few pearls of wisdom, prompt peels of laughter, shake a few hands, leaving those behind fresher for his passing through. "He had an aura that all great men have. He seemed immortal," David Lloyd, the new British Davis Cup captain, said.

Perhaps only the succession of British tennis players who came after him and who so devastatingly failed to follow in his footsteps have become sick of his name. You can see their point. Everyone knows that

Fred Perry was the last British player to win the men's singles title nearly 60 years ago. It is a fact trotted out at Wimbledon as, year after year, the only British player left standing with a racket is the statue of Fred by his eponymous gates.

Perry was fiercely proud of his statue and once complained that his name was illegible. "I might be Queen Victoria's chauffeur," he remarked. But the All England Club listened, repainted the base and put up a protective rail. "Whenever I turn up at Wimbledon without a pass, I just point to the statue and tell the gatekeeper 'That's me'."

His pride was justifiable. For many years after he had turned professional in 1936, after his third Wimbledon singles title, he was declared *persona non grata* by the British tennis establishment, who preferred their champions to be amateurs. He went to the United States to earn his living, being introduced to the ways of tennis stardom by the actress, Jean Harlow. "We were due to go to a tennis club dinner, but when she found out that I had never been to Hollywood, she suggested forgetting the dinner and seeing the town. Only a fool would have said no to that offer," Fred

recalled. Yet, as a professional in Britain, he had to play at Wembley and Leyton Orient FC — not Wimbledon. Typically, though, his bitterness over the treatment did not last.

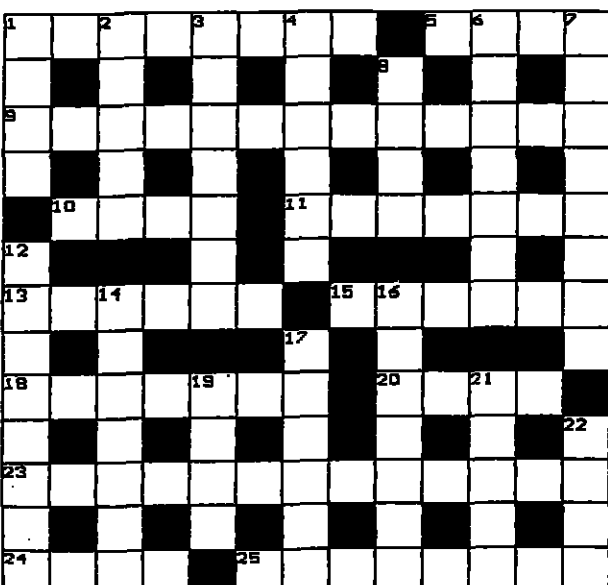
His love of life and laughter did not mean that Perry accepted fools gladly, though. Nor was he afraid of speaking his mind. As every one of his radio devotees will know — he received 50-60 letters a day at Wimbledon — the man had a genius for saying what he meant and was generally right in his analysis of character or match, even though he might doze off for a moment or two.

His criticism was always colourfully expressed. He did not, for example, think much of the modern men's game. "All bluff, bang, wallop. I was six feet and half an inch, now they're six feet five, six six." He still

regarded Bill Tilden as the best he played against and Rod Laver and Lew Hoad the best post-war. McEnroe got a mention too. But he had the ear of all of them all.

Surprisingly, given his three successive Wimbledon titles, the victory he cherished above all came in the Davis Cup against France in 1933 when he beat two of the legendary three musketeers, Jean Borotra and Henri Cochet, the latter to win the deciding rubber. It was Britain's first Davis Cup since 1911 and was greeted by a telegram from King George V.

Recently, he has been hit by a series of illnesses. Recovering from one bad patch, he sent a telegram: "Thanks for your kind messages. Was match-points down, but am now a break up in the final set."



CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 NEW Book 7 £4.50 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99), The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £2.50 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords (Book 1 £4.99, Books 10, 11, 12 & NEW Book 13 £4.50 each), The Sunday Times Concise Books 1 to 13 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Amiga/Ataris computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices include postage. Customers with order payable to 4 Home Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5JW. Tel 0181-852-4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 386

## ACROSS

- 1 Amphibious shock troops (8)
- 5 State of mind; form of verb (4)
- 9 Find place of safety (4,9)
- 10 Haul; bore (4)
- 11 Rich widow (7)
- 13 Business, concern (6)
- 15 Elijah's successor (6)
- 16 Reddish purple, named for Italian battle (7)
- 20 Bludgeon; hyperbolic cosine symbol (4)
- 23 Be unsociable; refuse to share (4,2,7)
- 24 Pleated neck-frill; to trump (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Quote as reference (4)
- 2 Constructor (5)
- 3 African spear (7)
- 4 To strip (6)
- 6 Nell Gwynne fruit (7)
- 7 Reverse (3-5)
- 8 Neatly store (goods) (4)
- 12 Forceful punch (6)
- 14 It renders nude statue decent (3-4)
- 16 Reading desk (7)
- 17 Chinese temple (6)
- 19 Memorandum (4)
- 21 Pleasant; piece of confectionery (5)
- 22 Dubious, risky (4)

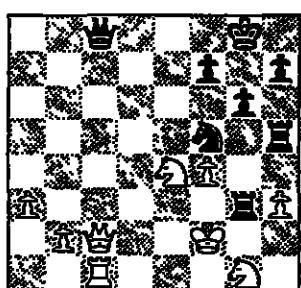
## SOLUTION TO NO 385

- ACROSS: 8 Realist 9 Umbrae 10 Whetstone 11 Oar 12 Raven 14 Enforce 15 Sweeper 17 Aidan 19 Run 20 Eavesdrop 22 Posse 23 Luggage
- DOWN: 1 Drawer 2 Ease 3 Bits and pieces 4 Otiose 5 Rite of passage 6 Abhorred 7 Hearse 13 Viennese 15 Scrape 16 Revolt 18 Nephew 21 Read

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Engqvist - Krasenkov, Stockholm 1995. Black has many threats to cope with: Qxc8+, Nxb3 and Nf6+. Can you see what he did?



Solution, page 38  
Raymond Keene, page 8

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## PAROREXIA

- a. Perverted appetite
- b. Over-reaching oneself
- c. A flowering shrub

## TORPILLAGE

- a. Inertia
- b. The skin of the skull
- c. Electric therapy

## FITCHEW

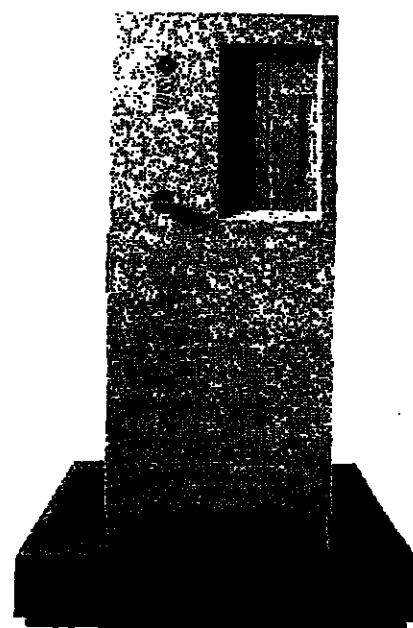
- a. A purse or handbag
- b. A polecat
- c. To show off

## ZENANA

- a. A banana/potato cross
- b. The day after tomorrow
- c. A seraglio

Answers on page 38

MORSE

Serve at Room  
Temperature.

The Sun Microsystems  
SPARCserver 1000. The perfect  
departmental server. (And no need for  
special air-conditioned environments).

Sun  
Authorized Reseller

Morse Computers. 0181-676 0404.

150 من الجاهل